NATION

SC refuses to probe Hathras stampede

≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS

Market rallies 1% to scale fresh highs

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

Alcaraz beats Daniil and returns to Wimbledon final

≫ Page: 8 ≪

www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 13 JULY 2024 | SATURDAY | BENGALURU | 6 MUHARRAM, 1446 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 171 | Pages: 8

WE ARE HIRING

REPORTERS
WEB-EDITOR
DESIGNER

Journalism degree preferred but not essential.

Reporter: 4-6 years experience.

Designer and web-editor: 2-4 years experience.

SEND YOUR CV TO:

hr.salarnews@gmail.com
anushreeirwin@gmail.com

25 June is Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas: Centre

It is to honour those who suffered in Emergency

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

The government has decided to observe 25 June, the day the Emergency was declared in 1975, as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to commemorate the "massive contributions" of those who endured inhuman pains of the period, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Friday.

He also said the observance of 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' will help keep the eternal flame of individual freedom and the defence of the democracy alive in every Indian, thus preventing "dictatorial forces" like the Congress from "repeating those horrors".

A gazette notification issued on Friday by the Union Home Ministry notes that Emergency was declared on 25 June, 1975, following which there was "gross abuse of power by the government of the day and people of India were subjected to excesses and atrocities".

The people of India have abiding faith in the Constitution and the power of its resilient democracy, it said.

"Therefore, Government of India declares 25th June as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to pay tribute to all those who suffered and fought against the gross abuse of power during the period of Emergency and to recommit the people of India to not support in any manner such gross abuse of power, in future," says the notification.

Lakhs of people were thrown behind the bars for no fault of their own, and the voice of the media was silenced, he said.

"The Government of India has decided to observe the 25th of June every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas.' This day will commemorate the massive contributions of all those who endured the inhuman pains of the 1975 Emergency," he said on X.

"The decision made by the government led by PM Shri @narendramodi Ji is intended to honour the spirit of millions who struggled to revive democracy despite facing inexplicable persecution at the hands of an oppressive government," he said. *—PTI*

Emergency was declared on 25 June, 1975, under then prime minister Indira Gandhi's Congress government **PHOTO: PTI**

K'taka will appeal against order to release water to TN

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

Soon after Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) directed the State government to release 1 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu daily, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced it will file an appeal with the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) against the directives. After a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar--who is also the Water Resources Minister, Ministers from the Cauvery river basin area-- and officials, he also said that an all-party meeting will be held on 14 July to decide on the state's next course of action. He stated that although the weather forecast predicts normal rainfall, there is currently a 28 per cent deficit.

—Salar News

>>>More on Page 2

CBI CUSTODY EXTENDED

Even after getting bail from SC, Kejri to remain in jail

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case lodged by ED in the alleged excise policy scam but he will remain in jail as CBI had later arrested him in a related matter.

Delhi's Rouse Avenue court extended the judicial custody of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal until July 25

The top court said it is up to Kejriwal to decide if he should continue as chief minister.

It also referred the questions pertaining to legality of his arrest in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case to a larger bench.

The court said since the matter is concerned with the right to life and the issue of arrest has been referred to a larger bench, Kejriwal be released on interim bail.

The top court framed three questions related to power, necessity of arrest under section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and policy of arrest by the ED.

It said Kejriwal will be released on interim bail in terms of the conditions in the order of 10 May.

While releasing Kejriwal on interim bail on 10 May, the top court had imposed conditions on him that he will not visit his office or the Delhi Secretariat. *—PTI*

Arvind Kejriwal **PHOTO: PTI**

Satyamev Jayate. A conspiracy was hatched by BJP to defame Arvind Kejriwal. But BJP had to face defeat in this cheap game. This is 'a victory of democracy over dictatorship'

-AAP

ED CAN'T ARREST UNDER PMLA AS PER ITS WHIM: SC

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Supreme Court said on Friday that the power to arrest under the anti-money laundering law cannot be exercised according to the whims and fancies of the ED officer.

A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, which granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the money laundering case linked to alleged excise policy scam, said any undue indulgence and latitude to Enforcement Directorate (ED) will be deleterious to the constitutional values of rule of law and life and liberty of people. The bench said ED officers acting under the Section 19(1) Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cannot ignore or not consider the material which exonerates the arrestee.

The bench said the opinion of ED officer is undoubtedly subjective, but formation of opinion should be in accordance with the law. The bench made the observation as Kejriwal has argued that ED has not mentioned in "grounds of arrest" the exculpatory statements made by the witnesses in the case. It observed that a wrong application of law or arbitrary exercise of duty leads to illegality in the process and the court can strike down such a decision. *—PTI*

ROADS TURN RIVER

Flooded Teesta Bazaar area along the swollen Teesta river after heavy rainfall, in Sikkim, on Friday; Incessant rains since Friday morning slowed down public transport services and traffic in Mumbai too as many areas faced waterlogging. Meanwhile, the flood situation in Assam has shown no signs of improvement, with nearly 14 lakh people continuing to grapple with the deluge **PHOTO: PTI**

ED takes Nagendra into custody in money laundering probe

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday took former minister B Nagendra into custody, as part of a money-laundering probe linked to the alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Limited, official sources said.

He was taken to ED office here from his residence for questioning, the sources said.

Following allegations against him in connection with the scam, Nagendra, who was Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister, tendered his resignation on 6 June.

"I'm being brought from my home...I don't know anything," Nagendra told reporters as he was being taken to the ED office.

B Nagendra **PHOTO: X/@BNAGENDRAINC**

The ED has carried out searches for the last two days at several places, including at the premises of former Karnataka Minister Nagendra and ruling Congress MLA Basanagouda Daddal, who is Chairman of the Corporation.

The agency covered around 20 locations in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra as part of a case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said.

The illegal money transfer issue, involving the Corporation, came to the fore, after its accounts superintendent, Chandrasekharan P killed himself on 26 May.

He left behind a note claiming unauthorised transfer of Rs 187 crore belonging to the Corporation from its bank account; from that, Rs 88.62 crore was illegally moved to various accounts allegedly belonging to "well-known" IT companies and a Hyderabad-based cooperative bank among others. The State government has constituted an SIT headed by Manish Kharbikar, Additional Director General of Police, Economic Offences, at the Criminal Investigation Department, to conduct the probe. *—PTI*

Nepal PM ousted after failing floor test

KATHMANDU, 12 JULY

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal was ousted from his position on Friday after failing to secure a vote of confidence during a floor test in the House of Representatives, Kathmandu Post reported. Dahal, who had been in office for over one year and six months, required 138 votes to pass the trust motion but received only 63 votes in his favour. Out of the 275-member House of Representatives, 194 lawmakers voted against him, while one member abstained.

—AP

>>>More on Page 6

Parents must know about live-in couples: U'khand

DEHRADUN, 12 JULY

A panel framing rules for Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code is trying to ensure that data provided by live-in couples remains protected but feels that information about those aged between 18 and 21 should be given to their parents, the committee's chief said on Friday. Chairman of the UCC's rules-making and implementation committee, Shatrughna Singh, who was also a part of the Justice (retd) Desai panel, said the report could not be made public earlier because the model code of conduct was in force. The panel framing rules for the implementation of UCC will ensure there is no breach of privacy of data provided by people at the time of registering their marriages and live-in relationships, he said at a press conference. *—PTI*

India abstains on UNGA resolution against Russia

UNITED NATIONS, 12 JULY

India has abstained in the United Nations General Assembly on a resolution that demanded that Russia immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine and withdraw its military and other unauthorised personnel from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

The 193-member UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on Thursday with 99 votes in favour, nine against and 60 abstentions, including India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Egypt, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Those voting against the resolution included Belarus, Cuba, North Korea, Russia and Syria.

The resolution called upon Moscow, until it returns the Zaporizhzhi a nuclear power plant of Ukraine to the full control of the sovereign and competent authorities of Ukraine, to provide the International Atomic Energy Agency Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhia with timely and full access to all areas at the plant that are important for nuclear safety and security to allow the Agency to report fully on the nuclear safety and security situation at the site.

India, as a critical security provider globally, must play a constructive role in ensuring peace in Ukraine, a senior US official said. *—PTI*

Adani to invest ₹20,000 cr in Vizhinjam port

T'PURAM, 12 JULY

Adani Group is planning to invest Rs 20,000 crore more to complete the remaining three phases of Vizhinjam International Seaport, the first transshipment port in the country, Managing Director of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) Karan Adani said on Friday.

Talking to PTI after the official reception ceremony for 'San Fernando', the first mothership to dock at Vizhinjam, Adani said the port will be a game changer for Indian manufacturers as it reduces logistics cost by 30 to 40 per cent.

Gautam Adani **PHOTO: PTI**

The mothership docked on Thursday at the port being developed by APSEZ, India's largest port developer and part of Adani Group, in a public-private partnership model at a cost of around Rs 8,867 crore.

He said Vizhinjam port, with its prime location, will play a crucial role in India's maritime sector as the first transhipment port in the country.

Earlier in the day, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan formally welcomed the 300-metre-long 'San Fernando' in a ceremony held at the port here in the presence of Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal. *—PTI*

MAHAYUTI CRUSHES MVA IN COUNCIL POLLS

MUMBAI, 12 JULY

The ruling Mahayuti alliance of BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP in Maharashtra on Friday won all the nine seats it contested in the biennial elections to 11 seats for the state legislative council.

In the results announced in the evening for the polls conducted earlier in the day, BJP won five seats, while Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) bagged two each. From the Opposition MVA, Milind Narvekar, close aide of Shiv Sena (UBT) Chief Uddhav Thackeray, and Congress candidate Pradnya Satav won the elections.

Peasants and Workers' Party candidate Jayant Patil, supported by Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP), lost the polls. The election was necessitated as 11 MLCs are completing their six-year term on 27 July. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

TURNING TABLES

No funds for dvpt because of guarantees: CM's fin advisor

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's economic advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi has said that huge allocations to the five guarantees of the state government have made it difficult to get funds for developmental works.

The Congress MLA from Yelburga in Koppal was speaking at a farmers' meeting after launching work at a lake at Mangaluru village in his Assembly segment.

"The Chief Minister has made me his economic advisor, and as I interact with him daily, this money has come (for the lake project), or else it wouldn't have come...impossible. This is the only work that is happening in the entire state, because guarantees will itself finish things... Rs 60,000-Rs 65,000 crore we have to spend for it (guarantees). I know how difficult it is, internal finance" Rayareddi said. BJP and JD(S) have been accusing the Congress government in the state of not taking up any developmental works, because of the large spending to fulfil the guarantees promised by the party during the Assembly elections.

Reacting to Rayareddi's claims, Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar has said "There are no difficulties We will continue the guarantee schemes. We did not bring in guarantee schemes for votes, it was with an intention to improve the quality of lives of the people, who were suffering with price rise," Shivakumar said.

Siddaramaiah has set aside Rs 52,009 crore for his government's flagship five guarantee schemes in the current financial year. The five guarantee schemes are: Gruha Jyoti, Gruha Lakshmi, Anna Bhagya, YuvaNidhi and Shakti. *—PTI*

IN 1 DAY, 21 DEAD DUE TO LIGHTNING STRIKES IN BIHAR

PATNA, 12 JULY

A total of 21 people died across Bihar in lightning-related incidents in the last 24 hours, the Chief Minister's Office said on Friday. The maximum number of six fatalities were reported from Madhubani, followed by four in Aurangabad, two from Patna, and one each from Rohtas, Bhojpur, Kaimur, Saran, Jehanabad, Gopalganj, Supaul, Lakhisarai and Madhepura districts, the CMO said in a statement. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has condoled the deaths and announced an ex gratia of Rs four lakh to the next of kin of each deceased. He also urged people to take all precautions during bad weather. *—PTI*

PHOTO: MSRUAS.AC.IN

Ramaiah Hospital signs pact with New York firm

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, a City-based multi-super-specialty quaternary care hospital, on Friday signed an exclusive agreement with the New York-based Mount Sinai Health System with the aim of advancing healthcare services through collaborations. The hospital said the long-term collaboration agreement will provision Mount Sinai's support to Ramaiah Memorial Hospital to advance the development of clinical competencies in select specialty areas, including oncology, cardiology, neurosciences, urology-nephrology. The collaboration will enable the periodic review of Ramaiah's complex clinical cases by both hospitals' top experts across specialties to identify the best treatment options for patients. *—PTI*

It is lonely to be a Muslim in today's world: Lucky Ali

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

It is lonely to be a Muslim in today's world, popular singer Lucky Ali posted on social media on Friday. While he didn't elaborate on his X post or the context for the comments, the Bengaluru-based singer said, "Muslims are labelled as 'terrorists' and abandoned by their friends. It is a lonely thing to follow the sunnah of the Prophet, your friends will leave you, the world will call you a terrorist." Known for songs such as 'O Sanam', 'Ek Pal Ka Jeena', and 'Hairat'. The singer is the son of the late actor and comedian Mehmood. *—PTI*

Bengaluru Tech Summit to be held on 19-20 November

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

IT Minister Priyank Kharge on Friday announced the 27th edition of one of the largest technology shows -- Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2024 -- scheduled from 19 to 21 November.

BTS aims to position the IT City at the forefront of global tech innovation and collaboration.

The three-day tech summit is expected to have participation from over 40 countries, with 460+ speakers in over 85 sessions, over 5,000 delegates, 500+ startups and 700+ exhibitors, with an overall expo footfall of 50,000 people.

A 'Breakfast Meet' was held where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah engaged in an interactive session with over 200 CEOs from India's leading IT, Semiconductor and Electronics, Biotech and Startup organisations.

The goal of this meet was to foster an open dialogue between government officials and tech leadership, centered on Karnataka's vibrant tech ecosystem and future prospects.

The Karnataka government's Department of Electronics, Information Technology and Biotechnology also presented an 'Action Taken Report' addressing the industry representatives' feedback from the 2023 Breakfast Meeting.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge during the curtain raiser of Bengaluru Tech Summit, in Bengaluru on Friday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

Speaking at the event, Kharge said Karnataka serves as the headquarters for major tech giants, Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and leading unicorns. This success stems not only from the state's industry-friendly policies and programmes, but also from its active engagement and collaboration with the complete tech ecosystem, he said.

- Speaking at the event, Kharge said Karnataka serves as the headquarters for major tech giants, Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and leading unicorns

"We also deeply value our close association with Global Innovation Alliance Partners and with them, BTS attracts the world's foremost leaders, innovators, and disruptors, drawing over 50,000 tech enthusiasts from India and more than 40 nations," he said.

He said the Congress government is listening to the industry to encourage more investments and create more employment, and added that they have got a lot of suggestions and there were certain concerns from the industry also with respect to certain policies and bills.

According to him, the government's focus beyond Bengaluru has always been on skill building, incubation and innovation across sectors. "Be it aerospace in Belagavi, semiconductors in Mysuru or startups in Mangaluru, we are also offering a plug-and-play facility for GCCs.

—PTI

State to appeal against Cauvery water release

CM announces all-party meeting on 14 July on the issue

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

Soon after Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) directed the State government to release 1 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu daily, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced it will file an appeal with the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) against the directives.

After a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar--who is also the Water Resources Minister, Ministers from the Cauvery river basin area-- and officials, he also said that an all-party meeting will be held on 14 July to decide on the state's next course of action.

He stated that although the weather forecast predicts normal rainfall, there is currently a 28 per cent deficit. "The CWRC has been informed of our position, and the government has requested not to make any decisions until the end of July. However, the CWRC has mandated releasing 1 TMC of water daily from 12 July," Siddaramaiah said.

The rate of inflow into the Krishnaraja Sagar dam at 6 pm on Sunday was at 30,216 cusecs *PHOTO: PTI*

He said that the meeting concluded with the opinion that the government should appeal the CWRC's order before the CWMA. The all-party meeting on 14 July at 4pm aims to unite all political factions on Karnataka's water issue. Union Ministers, Cauvery Constituency Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha Members, and MLAs will be invited to the meeting. He stressed that the government's next steps will be determined by consensus.

He also noted that approximately 1 cusec of water is currently being released into Tamil Nadu from the Kabini Dam.

"A total of only 60 TMC of water is available across all four reservoirs in the Cauvery basin. We must also allocate water for agricultural activities. Considering the lack of rain, we have requested to delay any decisions until the end of July," the chief minister said.

Shivakumar said that in the major dams of the Cauvery basin, the water availability is at 62 per cent. He said, "We have noticed there is a shortage of water by 10 TMC and we have held a discussion with our legal experts on releasing the cauvery water to Tamil Nadu."

—Salar News with agencies

AGAINST 'IRREGULARITIES'

Karnataka BJP President BY Vijayendra along with other party leaders protest against MUDA scam, in Mysuru, on Friday *PHOTO: PTI*

BJP leaders on way to protest against MUDA scam detained

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

BJP President BY Vijayendra and several other party leaders were detained here on Friday when were on their way to Mysuru to stage a protest. They were protesting against alleged fraudulent allotment of sites to land losers by Mysuru Urban Development Authority, which involves plots given to the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife.

- Vijayendra and other BJP leaders were whisked away in a bus on the Mysuru Road near Kengeri here, even as they sought to resist police action

They were scheduled to attend a protest rally in Mysuru—the Chief Minister's home district- and lay a siege to the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) office there.

Vijayendra and other BJP leaders were whisked away in a bus on the Mysuru Road near Kengeri here, even as they sought to resist police action.

They shouted slogans against the government.

"The Congress government is indulging in oppression. The Siddaramaiah-led Congress government doesn't have the strength to stop our protest. In the days ahead from every corner of the State our BJP workers will come and lay siege in Mysuru and also Bengaluru. They have stopped us today, but our protest will continue," Vijayendra said.

It is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by MUDA. The MUDA had allotted plots to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land, where MUDA developed a residential layout. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar hit back at the Bharatiya Janata Party over the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam and termed all the allegations "baseless".

—PTI

A large number of women lined up at the General Post Office in Bengaluru on Friday open IPPB accounts *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

Women queue at City GPO to get ₹8K amid rumours

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

An unexpected rush of women was seen at the General Post Office (GPO) on Friday from after a rumour that the postal department was depositing Rs 8,000 in every account opened under India Post Payment Bank (IPPB). The rumours that circulated on WhatsApp over the past few weeks, went viral in community and local Resident Welfare Association (RWA) groups.

Around 150 women, including civic workers and daily wage earners, gathered at the GPO from the early hours of Friday, aiming to link their Aadhar cards to post office.

The scheme aims to provide banking facilities to people in rural areas by linking 1.55 lakh post office branches with the IPPB. It facilitates financial transactions, including online transactions and direct benefit transfers, making easier for rural populations.

Despite the scheme being launched seven years ago, many people in these areas remain unaware of its details.

Speaking to **Salar News**, a Kuli worker said, "We just heard from our boss that we need to come and link our Aadhaar cards to the post office because we might get some amount. We don't know anything else."

Similarly, thousands of women thronged GPO on 31 May to open IPPB accounts after rumours that Rs 8,000 will be credited to their account. This led to at least 12,000 new accounts being opened. *—Salar News*

POCSO case: BSY can skip court on 26 July

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

Karnataka High Court on Friday adjourned to 26 July hearing on a petition filed by former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa seeking quashing of a POCSO case against him, and exempted the veteran BJP leader from personally appearing before a Bengaluru court in connection with the matter on 15 July.

The Fast Track Court 1 for POCSO Act cases here on 4 July issued summons to the 81-year-old to appear before it on 15 July.

Criminal Investigation Department, which is probing the case, on 27 June filed a charge-sheet against him at the Fast Track Court.

A day later, the High Court had extended its interim order restraining the CID from arresting Yediyurappa after allowing the prosecution to file objections to the petition filed by him seeking quashing of the FIR, and then adjourned further hearing by two weeks, which ended today.

CID, probing charges against Yediyurappa of sexually assaulting a minor girl, has alleged in the chargesheet that he and three other accused paid money to the alleged victim and her mother to buy their silence. Yediyurappa has been charged under Section 8 (punishment for sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Sections 354A (sexual harassment), 204 (destruction of document or electronic record to prevent its production as evidence) and 214 (offering gift or restoration of property in consideration of screening offender) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The other three co-accused -- Arun YM, Rudresh M and G Mariswamy who are aides of Yediyurappa -- are charged under IPC Sections 204 and 214. *—PTI*

NO ADJUSTMENT POLITICS IN LS: DKS

BENGALURU, 12 JULY

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday dismissed any rumours of "adjustment politics" in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, and said that Congress party workers fought the election hard.

Shivakumar was reacting to reports that party functionaries allegedly told a fact-finding team a day ago that "adjustment politics" and "administrative lapses" in the government were among the reasons for the ruling Congress in the state winning only nine out of the total 28 seats in Karnataka in the recently-concluded Lok Sabha elections.

He said there was no need for the Enforcement Directorate probe into alleged financial irregularities in a state-run corporation, as the Special Investigation Team.

—PTI

DOOR TO POWER

Mysuru artisans craft new door for Vidhana Soudha

VAISHNAVI GOPALRAJ
BENGALURU, 12 JULY

Vidhana Soudha, the seat of the Karnataka legislature, has undergone a significant renovation in preparation for the upcoming 14th Legislative Assembly's fourth session scheduled to begin from 15 to 22 July.

Lawmakers entering the Vidhana Soudha will be welcomed with a brand new rosewood door instead of an iron one featuring intricate designs crafted by Mysuru artisans.

The entrance will also showcase a 'Down the memory lane' photo exhibition depicting the history of the building, including photos from the first Vidhan Soudha session held at Aatara House.

Speaking to **Salar News**, State Assembly Speaker UT Khader said, "To make Vidhana Soudha more appealing, we replaced the iron entrance door with a rosewood door featuring intricate designs by Mysuru artisans and a Gandaberunda clock."

Gandaberunda is a State symbol, used by the Wadiyar rulers of Mysuru as a royal emblem.

The Speaker said that this session aims to boost member participation. He announced the implementation of an AI-powered attendance tracking system that will record the entry and exit times of members.

Lawmakers entering Vidhana Soudha will be welcomed with a brand new rosewood door featuring designs crafted by Mysuru artisans *PHOTO: SALAR*

SALAR EXCLUSIVE

"The AI cameras will note the number of times a member enters and exits, who arrives early and stays until the end of the session," he added.

To encourage early arrival and longer stays, legislators will be treated to a complimentary breakfast spread featuring popular South Indian dishes like ghee podi idlis, Davangere butter dosa and akki roti. The first 25 attendees will receive ceramic plates featuring State and national symbols.

The breakfast will be served to around 300 people, including 224 MLAs and 75 MLCs. *—Salar News*

3-DAY EXPO

A visitor at Nanya Darshini- 2024, old coins and currency expo by Karnataka Numismatic Society, at Shikshakara Sadana in Bengaluru. The expo is from 12-14 July *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

SC stays HC ban on Kannada news channel

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed High Court's interim order restraining Kannada news channel Power TV from broadcasting and issued notice on its plea challenging the Karnataka HC order. The top court remarked that this was a "political vendetta."

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud issued notice to Centre on Power Smart Media Pvt Ltd plea and stayed the HC order till further hearing, which is listed on 15 July.

Power TV, which has moved the top court through advocate on record Mithu Jain has challenged High Court's division bench order on 3 July.

On 3 July, the high court had modified the order of the single judge to the extent that no timelines have been laid down by the single judge for disposing off the proceedings pursuant to show-cause notice dated 9 February , and thus, directed the competent authority of Union of India to decide the proceedings pursuant to the show-cause notice dated. *—ANI*

HC denies bail to Bibhav in Maliwal assault case

NEWDELHI, 12 JULY

Delhi High Court on Friday denied bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar who is accused of assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal. Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta dismissed Kumar's bail plea, saying no ground to grant him the relief was made out. Kumar, presently in judicial custody, allegedly assaulted Maliwal on 13 May at Kejriwal's official residence. He was arrested on 18 May. An FIR was registered against Kumar on 16 May under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, including those related to criminal intimidation, assault or criminal force on a woman with the intent to disrobe, and attempt to commit culpable homicide. Kumar had sought bail, claiming the allegations were false and his custody was no longer required as the probe was over. *—PTI*

Amritpal's brother Harpreet, 2 others held in drug case

CHANDIGARH, 12 JULY

Radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh's brother Harpreet Singh and two others have been arrested by Jalandhar police in a drug case, officials said on Friday. Harpreet Singh alias Happy was nabbed along with another accomplice, identified as Lovepreet Singh alias Luv, on Thursday evening while the duo was preparing to "consume" drugs, Senior Superintendent of Police (Jalandhar Rural) Ankur Gupta said in Jalandhar. One more identified as Sandeep Arora, a resident of Ludhiana's Haibowal area, from whom the duo had allegedly procured the drug, has also been arrested, SSP said. Four grams of ICE (methamphetamine) drug was recovered during checking of the car in which Harpreet Singh and Lovepreet Singh were present, Gupta said. A case under provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act has been registered in the matter, he added. *—PTI*

BJP worker fatally attacked by group in Rajasthan

JAIPUR, 12 JULY

A BJP worker and businessman died after he was allegedly attacked by a group of people in Kotputli-Behror district, police said on Friday. The victim, Yasin, was returning to Alwar from Jaipur on Thursday evening when a group of eight people stopped his car and attacked him with iron rods and sticks, leaving him severely injured, Kotputli-Behror Additional SP Nem Singh Chauhan said. Yasin was rushed to a nearby community health centre for primary treatment and later taken to Jaipur's Sawai Man Singh Hospital (SMS), where he succumbed to his injuries, Narainpur Station House Officer (SHO) Shambhu Meena said. According to the SHO, Yasin and the accused had some old enmity. They all belonged to the Mev community and were residents of Alwar. BJP leader and MLA from Tijara constituency (Alwar) Baba Balaknath said the incident was shocking. *—PTI*

Kerala retains top rank in NITI Aayog's India Index

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Uttarakhand and Kerala have emerged as the top performer states in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24, which evaluates progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters, while Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer. According to NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24, India's overall Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) score increased to 71 in 2023-24, compared to 66 in 2020-21, supported by significant progress on eliminating poverty, providing decent work, economic growth, climate action and life on land. Among the union territories, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands were top five performers. *—PTI*

BJP-led Mahayuti wins 9 out of 11 seats in M'rashtra MLC polls

Results indicate that 7 Congress MLAs cross-voted

MUMBAI, 12 JULY

The ruling Mahayuti alliance of BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP in Maharashtra on Friday won all the nine seats it contested in the biennial elections to 11 seats for the state legislative council.

In the results announced in the evening for the polls conducted earlier in the day, BJP won five seats, while Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) bagged two each.

From the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Milind Narvekar, close aide of Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, and Congress candidate Pradnya Satav won the elections.

Peasants and Workers' Party (PWP) candidate Jayant Patil, who was supported by Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP), lost the polls.

Meanwhile, the results indicate that at least seven Congress MLAs defied the party's directive while voting in Friday's biennial elections to 11 seats of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, results showed.

While BJP won 5 seats, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena & Ajit Pawar's NCP won 2 seats each **PHOTO: PTI**

- From the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Milind Narvekar, close aide of Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, and Congress candidate Pradnya Satav won the elections

Congress, which has 37 MLAs, had fixed a quota of 30 first preference votes for its candidate Pradyna Satav, and seven remaining votes were to go to Milind Narvekar, candidate of the ally Shiv Sena (UBT), party sources said.

Eventually, Satav got 25 and Narvekar 22 first preference votes, which meant at least seven Congress MLAs cross-voted.The 288-member legislative assembly was the electoral college for the polls and its current strength is 274.

Each winning candidate required a quota of 23 first-preference votes.

BJP had fielded five candidates - former Maharashtra minister Pankaja Munde, Yogesh Tilekar, Parinay Phuke, Amit Gorkhe and Sadabhau Khot, and its ally Shiv Sena two - former Lok Sabha MPs Krupal Tumane and Bhavana Gawali. NCP had given tickets to Shivajirao Garje and Rajesh Vitekar.

Congress had nominated Satav for another term, while Sena (UBT) had fielded Narvekar.

The third MVA constituent, NCP (SP), did not field its nominee and instead extended support to PWP's Jayant Patil. *—PTI*

'CUSTODIAL TORTURE'

Ex-CM Jagan booked in attempt to murder case

GUNTUR, 12 JULY

Andhra Pradesh police registered an "attempt to murder" case against former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, two senior IPS officers and two retired officials, following a complaint lodged by a TDP MLA, an official said on Friday.

The complaint was lodged by the ruling party's Undi MLA K Raghurama Krishna Raju, who was a YSRCP Lok Sabha MP between 2019 and 2024 but had a fallout with Reddy at an early stage.

Besides Reddy, police booked senior IPS officers PV Sunil Kumar and PSR Sitaramanjaneyulu and retired police officer R Vijay Paul and former Guntur Government General Hospital superintendent G Prabhavati, the official said.

"Raju sent his police complaint through mail one month ago and after taking legal opinion, I registered a case at 7 pm on Thursday against the former chief ministers and others," the official said.

Raju, a former MP, also alleged that he was subjected to "custodial torture," the official added.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy **PHOTO: PTI**

TDP leader Raju's 2021 arrest case came to the fore in Andhra Pradesh after he lodged a complaint against Reddy and some officials over it on 10 June.

He accused the former chief minister and the senior officials of "plotting" a criminal "conspiracy" against him.

Raju, 62, alleged in his complaint that senior IPS officers Sunil Kumar and Sitaramanjaneyulu, officer Vijaya Paul and government doctor Prabhavathi were part of "conspiracy."

He was arrested in May, 2021 in the middle of the Covid-19 second wave. *—PTI*

Mamata Banerjee meets Uddhav Thackeray & Sharad Pawar **PHOTO: PTI**

Didi meets Uddhav & Sharad, says NDA will not last long

MUMBAI, 12 JULY

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre was unstable, and may not complete its term.

Banerjee met Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray at his residence `Matoshree' in the Bandra area here. She would also be meeting NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar during her visit, she said.

"This government may not continue also. This is not a stable government," she said at a press conference with Thackeray.

"Khela has begun, It will go on," Banerjee said when asked to elaborate.

Mamata also met Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar during her first visit to Mumbai after the declaration of Lok Sabha poll results more than a month ago. Banerjee, who heads the Trinamool Congress, met Pawar at his residence 'Silver Oak' in south Mumbai.

This was Banerjee's first visit to Mumbai after 4 June Lok Sabha results after utting up better-than-expected performance. *—PTI*

BJP VS CONG

Cong hits back, says 4 June to be 'Modi Mukti Diwas'

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

BJP on Friday said commemoration of 25 June as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' every year will remind people of the sacrifices and martyrdom of those who fought against the "dictatorial mindset" of Congress.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that observing 25 June as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' will serve as a reminder of what happened when Constitution was trampled over.

He said on 'X', "It is also a day to pay homage to each and every person who suffered due to the excesses of the Emergency, a Congress unleashed dark phase of Indian history."

Meanwhile, Congress slammed the governments as yet another "headline grabbing exercise in hypocrisy" by Modi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi **PHOTO: ANI**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that observing 25 June as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' will serve as a reminder of what happened when Constitution was trampled over

Taking a swipe at the decision, the Opposition party also said that from now on, every year on 8 November, the day when demonetisation was announced in 2016, the people of India will celebrate "Aajivika Hatya Diwas" and a gazette notification will also be issued soon.

Congress General Secretary (In-charge, Communications), Jairam Ramesh said, "Yet another headline grabbing exercise in hypocrisy by the non-biological PM who had imposed an undeclared Emergency for ten long years before the people of India handed him a decisive personal, political, and moral defeat on June 4, 2024 - which will go down in history as Modi Mukti Diwas. This is a non-biological PM who has subjected the Constitution of India and its principles, values, and institutions to systematic assault," Ramesh said on X. *—PTI*

After reports of movement, search ops begin in Jammu

JAMMU, 12 JULY

Security forces launched a search operation in the border belt of Jammu district on Friday after information was received about suspicious movement in the area, officials said.

The forces are on high alert and have asked people to share any details of suspected movements in their areas.

A joint search operation was launched by Army, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Guda Patan and Kana Chak areas near the Chenab river in the Akhnoor border belt this morning after some people informed police about the suspicious movement of three persons in the area, the officials said.

The security forces have scanned agricultural fields, villages and adjoining scattered habitation, they said. The operation is underway. *—PTI*

Video of Rajat abusing Cong leader not edited: X to HC

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Social media platform X has contended before Delhi High Court that the video clip in which senior journalist Rajat Sharma could be heard uttering allegedly an objectionable word to Congress leader Ragini Nayak during a TV debate cannot be construed to be "edited".

X claimed that the video in the social media posts which Sharma seeks to remove from its platform matches with his channel India TV's own livestream and is prima facie "authentic".

The micro-blogging site has approached the High Court seeking vacation of an ad-interim injunction order by which X Corp, Google India and Meta platforms were required to remove social media posts if they are not deleted by Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera and Ragini Nayak.

Rajat Sharma and Ragini Nayak **PHOTO: PTI**

X, in its application-cum-reply, said, "This court cannot conclude that the video is 'edited' or that it contains 'insertions' merely on the basis of plaintiff's (Sharma) vague and unsubstantiated assertion."

The controversy arose after Nayak accused Sharma of abusing her on national television during a debate on his show on the election results day. *—PTI*

3-day meet of RSS 'prant pracharaks' begins in Ranchi

RANCHI, 12 JULY

The three-day annual meeting of the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) 'prant pracharaks' began here on Friday to deliberate on organisational expansion, upcoming centenary year celebrations and other issues. RSS leaders including its Chief Mohan Bhagwat, General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, national executive members and all prant pracharaks are participating in the event, an office-bearer of the organisation said.

"Currently, there are 73,000 branches operational nationwide, with efforts underway to establish at least one branch in every 'Mandal' (a cluster of 10-15 villages) across the country", all-India publicity head of the RSS, Sunil Ambekar, had said earlier. *—PTI*

Rahul's defamation case: HC quashes order to allow new docu

MUMBAI, 12 JULY

In a relief to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the Bombay High Court on Friday quashed a magistrate's order permitting an RSS worker to submit fresh and additional documents in a pending criminal defamation complaint.

RSS worker Rajesh Kunte had in 2014 lodged a defamation complaint before the Bhiwandi magistrate's court, claiming the Congress leader had made false and defamatory statements during a speech that the right-wing outfit was responsible for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

In 2023, the magistrate court in Bhiwandi in Thane district permitted Kunte to submit the transcript of Gandhi's speech, which was part of a petition the Congress leader had filed in 2014 seeking the quashing of summons issued to him.

Rahul Gandhi **PHOTO: PTI**

- RSS worker Rajesh Kunte had in 2014 lodged a defamation complaint before the Bhiwandi magistrate's court, claiming the Congress leader had made false & defamatory statements

The documents submitted by Kunte include parts of a petition filed by Gandhi in 2014, challenging the summons issued to him by the Bhiwandi court then.

It includes a copy of the transcript of the alleged speech made by Gandhi from a CD containing the purported live telecast of the programme, which was annexed as an exhibit to the petition.

Gandhi, in his plea, claimed that in 2021, another bench of the high court had disallowed Kunte from submitting any fresh documents in the case. *—PTI*

IDENTITY CRISIS?

No Aadhaar card? Can't meet Kangana

SHIMLA, 12 JULY

BJP Mandi MP Kangana Ranaut recently said that people should bring Aadhaar cards that can identify them as people from her constituency, in order to meet her.

In a dig at Ranaut's remarks that people should come with their Aadhaar cards to meet her, Himachal Pradesh minister Vikramaditya Singh said on Thursday that public representatives should meet all sections of people without identity cards.

The state Public Works Minister said anyone from anywhere in Himachal Pradesh can meet him.

Ranaut had recently said that due to a heavy tourist presence in the state, people should bring Aadhaar cards that can identify them as people from her constituency to meet her.

A video of the BJP MP's remarks have surfaced online.

Responding to her remarks, Congress minister Singh said, "We are representatives of the people and it is our responsibility to meet people from all sections."

"Whether it is a small or big work, policy matter, or individual matter, it does not require any identity cards. If people are coming to meet public representatives, they are coming for some work and saying that you need this paper or that is not right," he said.

Kangana Ranaut **PHOTO: ANI**

"Anyone from anywhere in the state can come and meet me", Singh added.

The purpose of visit and matter should also be written in a letter so there is no inconvenience, the BJP leader added.

Ranaut said people are free to bring any matter to her but if people come with issues of Mandi parliamentary constituency which needs the central government's attention such as framing of new policies then she is "the voice of people of Mandi in Parliament". *—PTI*

- Ranaut had recently said that due to a heavy tourist presence in the state, people should bring Aadhaar cards that can identify them to meet her

Mahatma's statue removed; CM says he is not aware

GUWAHATI, 12 JULY

Two days after a statue of Mahatma Gandhi was removed for the construction of a clock tower in Assam's Doomdoma town, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said he was unaware of such a move and would verify the facts.

His comment comes after the Tinsukia administration's move to dismantle the statue drew widespread criticism.

Sarma, reacting to a post by Mahatma's great-grandson Tushar Gandhi, wrote on X: "I am not aware of this decision taken by the district administration. Let me verify facts."

Local people had staged a demonstration against the administration's move.

Himanta Biswa Sarma **PHOTO: ANI**

On Thursday, Doomdoma MLA Rupesh Gowala assured them that a new and taller statue of the Father of the Nation would be erected at the same site.

The BJP legislator claimed that the statue was in a somewhat dilapidated condition and the new one would be installed within six months, along with beautification of the site. *—ANI*

PHOTO: ANI

Water availability in main reservoirs rise to 26%

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Amid heavy rains in different parts of the country, water levels in 150 main reservoirs of the country have increased to 26 per cent of the total live storage capacity, still lower than in the same period last year, according to official data. Last week, the water level was at 22 per cent. The current live storage stands at 46.311 billion cubic meters (BCM), which is 26 per cent of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. This is a significant drop compared to the same period last year, when the live storage was 58.864 BCM, according to Central Water Commission's (CWC's) Friday bulletin. The reservoirs being monitored have a combined total live storage capacity of 178.784 BCM, representing 69.35 per cent of the overall estimated live storage capacity in the country. *—PTI*

4.2 earthquake rocks Baramulla, no casualty reported

SRINAGAR, 12 JULY

A magnitude 4.2 earthquake struck Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, officials said. There are no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, they said. The earthquake hit the North Kashmir district at 12.26 pm. According to the officials, the earthquake struck at a latitude of 34.32 degrees north and a longitude of 74.41 degrees east at a depth of 5km. *—PTI*

Delhi's 16-year-old boy shot dead while shopping

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

A 16-year-old boy has been shot dead outside a garment shop in northeast Delhi's Jafrabad area, police said on Friday. An FIR has been registered on a complaint from the boy's elder brother who said the victim, his friend and he were accosted and attacked by some people while they were coming out of the shop after purchasing some T-shirts, they said. Police said they and their attackers are residents of either the Welcome area or the Kabir Nagar area, and they knew each other. The incident took place around 9:35 pm on Thursday near Markari Chowk in Zafrabad, police said. The boy suffered a gunshot wound in his back and died during treatment at the GTB *—PTI*

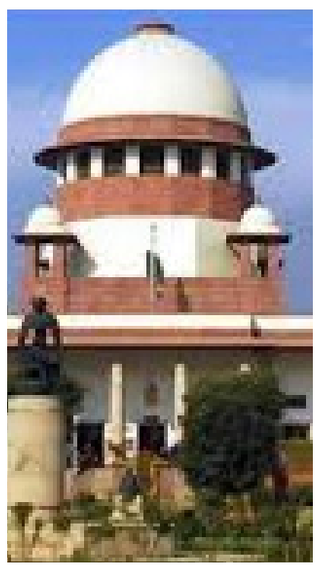
CISF man files case against Spicejet crew over slap row

KOLKATA, 12 JULY

CISF Assistant Sub Inspector Giriraj Prasad has filed a case against a spice jet female crew member after she allegedly slapped him at the airport. The female crew member has also filed a case against the ASI. The Assistant Commissioner of Police of Malviya Nagar Aditya Poonia said that cases had been filed by both parties on the matter. According to the report provided by ASI Prasad, the crew member reached the airport at 4 in the morning. During this time, he was also on duty at the airport. He said that the crew member tried to enter without going through a security check and over this, he stopped her, asking her to undergo screening. The crew member cited the absence of female staff and refused to be screened. When she cited the absence of female staff, Giriraj contacted the airport control, asking to call for female staff by sending a message on his wireless. Meanwhile, the crew member got angry and started arguing and even before the female staff could reach her, the crew member slapped him. *—ANI*

SC refuses to probe Hathras stampede

SC says such incidents are 'disturbing' but asked the petitioner to approach Allahabad HC



Over 2.5 lakh devotees had gathered in Hathras district's Phulrai village for the 'satsang' **PHOTO: PTI**

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking a probe into the Hathras stampede that left 121 dead, and asked the petitioner to move Allahabad High Court.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said such incidents are "disturbing" but the High Courts are equipped to deal with such cases.

It asked lawyer and petitioner Vishal Tiwari to move the Allahabad High Court and disposed of the PIL.

Tiwari said the issue regarding the non-availability of proper medical facilities to deal with such incidents is a pan India concern and the PIL can be dealt with by the Supreme Court also. The plea had sought the appointment of a five-member expert committee under the supervision of a retired apex court judge to probe the 2 July stampede incident.

The stampede took place at a religious congregation in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district on 2 July.

Over 2.5 lakh devotees had gathered in Hathras district's Phulrai village for the 'satsang' conducted by Baba Narayan Hari, who is also known as Saakar Vishwahari and Bhole Baba. *—PTI*

Farmers are citizens: SC raps Haryana over Shambu

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Supreme Court on Friday asked the Haryana government to clear the barricading at the Shambhu border near Ambala, where farmers have been camping since 13 February, and questioned its authority to block the highway.

The Haryana government had set up barricades on the Ambala-New Delhi national highway in February after the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha announced that farmers would march to Delhi in support of various demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan made the observation after the Haryana government counsel said the state is in the process of filing an appeal against the Punjab and Haryana High Court's July 10 order, which had directed it to open the highway within seven days.

Justice Kant told the state's counsel, "Why do you want to challenge the High Court's order? Farmers are also citizens of this country. Give them food and good medical care. They will come, raise slogans and go back."

- The top court was hearing a plea of the Haryana challenging a 7 March Punjab and Haryana High Court decision to set up a committee headed by a former judge to probe farmer Shubhkaran Singh's death during a clash between the protesting farmers and Haryana security personnel in February.

The top court was hearing a plea of the Haryana government challenging a 7 March Punjab and Haryana High Court decision to set up a committee headed by a former high court judge to probe farmer Shubhkaran Singh's death during a clash between the protesting farmers and Haryana security personnel in February. *—PTI*

Plea seeks SIT probe into EBs

Supreme Court agreed to consider listing a public interest litigation that urged a court-monitored investigation into the electoral bonds scheme. The PIL, filed by NGOs Common Cause and the Centre for Public Interest Litigation, alleges an "apparent quid pro quo" between parties, corporations, and probe agencies.

SC turns away doctors' plea

Supreme Court refused to entertain a Delhi Medical Association (DMA) plea seeking directions for the protection of doctors from violence, saying laws already exist to deal with such instances. However, the court gave liberty DMA to approach appropriate forums in case of any particular instance of violence.

A WEDDING TO REMEMBER

After four months of star-studded pre-wedding celebrations, Reliance Group chief Mukesh Ambani's son Anant Ambani finally tied the knot with Radhika Merchant, daughter of pharma tycoons Viren and Shaila Merchant, at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on Friday. The celebrations cost the Ambanis Rs 10,000 crore approximately **PHOTO: PTI**

IAS Khedkar to be sacked if found guilty

MUMBAI, 12 JULY

Puja Khedkar
PHOTO: X/@KHEDKARPAVAN07

Trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar, who is in the eye of a storm over alleged misuse of power and claims that she made in her UPSC candidature, may be terminated from service if found guilty, official sources said on Friday.

Khedkar is accused of using a siren on her private Audi and raising demands for a separate house and car - privileges not available to junior officers.

An old video showing Khedkar's mother threatening a group of men with a gun in her hand surfaced online, adding to her troubles. The 34-year-old officer is in the eye of storm over for allegedly misusing the disability and Other Backward Class quota to secure a position in the IAS.

The single-member probe committee of Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Additional Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training, has been asked to submit its report within two weeks, the sources said. The Navi Mumbai police have also reported to the Maharashtra government that Khedkar had allegedly tried to pressure a DCP-rank officer to release a man held in a theft case on 18 May. Khedkar was transferred from Pune to Washim before the completion of her training after kicking up controversy with demands such as a separate cabin and staff. *—PTI*

JNU TO GET HINDU, BUDDHIST, JAIN STUDIES' CENTRE

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

The Jawaharlal Nehru University will open a Centre for Hindu Studies as well as centres for Buddhist and Jain studies, according to an official notification.

The three new centres will be established under the School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies, it said. The decision to set up the new centres was approved by the Executive Council of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in a meeting on 29 May.

A committee was constituted by the JNU to explore and recommend the implementation of the National Education Policy (2020) and the Indian Knowledge System at the university. *—PTI*

SC collegium recommends 7 names for HC chief justices

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

The Supreme Court has recommended the appointment of chief justices for High Courts of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Meghalaya.

The collegium headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and also comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna and BR Gavai made the recommendations after considering the names of judges from different high courts by taking into account their seniority and performance, and the need to provide representation in the different high courts.

Justice Manmohan, who is the acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, has been recommended as the chief justice of the court. The collegium recommended the name of Justice Rajiv Shakdher for appointment as the chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. By a separate resolution, the collegium has recommended the appointment of Justice Owing to the recommendation of elevating Justice N Kotiswar Singh, current Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to the Supreme Court, on his appointment, there would be a vacancy in the office of Chief Justice. The Collegium recommended the name of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait as the next Chief Justice of the same High Court. The Collegium recommended Justice GS Sandhawalia for Chief Justice of MP High Court and Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar as Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala. *—PTI*

DU SAYS NOT TO MANUSMRITI IN LAW COURSE

HYDERABAD, 12 JULY

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday said a proposal to include Manusmriti in a Delhi University law course was rejected by the Vice Chancellor and that there was no endorsement of any such plan.Pradhan told reporters here that he spoke to the Delhi University Vice Chancellor on Thursday when information was received about the matter.

Congress attacked the Centre over a proposal to teach 'Manusmriti' to Delhi University's LLB students, alleging that this is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "salami tactics" to bring fulfilment to the decades-long attempt by RSS. *—PTI*

Crew left roomless as Air India forgets to book hotel

MUMBAI, 12 JULY

PHOTO: PTI

Air India forgot to book hotel rooms for some cabin crew members and they had to wait for long hours after landing at Hyderabad on Wednesday, with the airline saying it will take appropriate action for the lapse.

Sources in the know told PTI that the cabin crew members kept scouting for a hotel throughout the night and when they finally managed the accommodation at the airline's flying training facility CTE in the wee hours of Thursday, the room lacked basic amenities.

According to them, when the crew members went to the hotel where they were supposed to stay, they found that there were no bookings made by the airline. "This is a lapse and we will take appropriate action," the spokesperson said. The sources said the accommodation at the CTE is meant only for the staff coming for training and is not for the cockpit or cabin crew on duty. For cockpit and cabin crew, airlines book their hotel rooms in advance. *—PTI*

ON POPULAR DEMAND

In a 1st, Kerala Kalamandalam serves non-veg food to students

THRISSUR, 12 JULY

PHOTO: X

For the first time in the history of the Kerala Kalamandalam, a premier public institution for the preservation and promotion of the traditional performing arts of the state, non-vegetarian dishes were served at its canteen to students on 10 July, on popular demand.

An official at the Deemed-to-be-University said that chicken biryani, prepared at the famous kitchen run by inmates of Viyyur Central Jail, was served to the students on Wednesday.

This marked the first time since its founding in 1930 that non-vegetarian food was served to students at the institution which was not just plant-based or dairy-based, according to the official.

Initially, a mess committee comprising representatives of students, teachers, and non-teaching staff was formed, and based on student demand it was decided to serve chicken biryani on 10 July. When asked about the reported opposition from a section of faculty to including meat-based food in the canteen menu, citing concerns that it would affect the health of students who undergo oil therapies as part of their studies, the officer said that no complaints have been received so far. Kerala Kalamandalam was founded in 1930 by renowned poet Padmabhooshan Vallathol Narayana Menon and his close associate Manakkulam Mukundaraja, under the patronage of Kakkad Karanavappad. It is a residential institution that imparts training in various performance arts, such as Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Thullal, Kutiyattam, Panchavadyam, and Carnatic music. *—PTI*

M'RASHTRA TO BAN ENERGY DRINKS NEAR SCHOOLS

MUMBAI, 12 JULY

Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Minister Dharmarao Baba Atram on Friday told the state legislative council that his department would issue an order banning the sale of energy drinks with high caffeine content within 500m radius of schools in the state.

He gave the assurance in the Upper House of the state legislature while responding to a question raised by independent legislator Satyajeet Tambe during the Question Hour.

"As per the existing rules, caffeine content between 145 ml and 300 ml is allowed in one litre of carbonated or non-carbonated drinks," Atram said. *—PTI*

FOR POWER PLANTS

Ch'garh to axe 91 hectares of forest

JAIPUR, 12 JULY

Vishnu Deo Sai **PHOTO: PTI**

Chhattisgarh government has given permission to use 91.21 hectares of forest land of Parsa East and Kanta Basan (PEKB) coal block for supply of coal to the power plants of Rajasthan, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said on Friday.

Thanking Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai for this, his Rajasthan counterpart said his government is constantly taking efforts to ensure uninterrupted power supply, in accordance with the resolution of 'Apna Agrani Rajasthan'.

"Rajasthan government is committed to ensure uninterrupted power supply. Hearty thanks to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai on behalf of the entire Rajasthan family for granting permission by the Chhattisgarh government to use 91.21 hectares of forest land of Parsa East and Kanta Basan (PEKB) coal block operated in Hasdeo Aranya coalfield for supply of coal to the power plants of Rajasthan," Sharma posted on X. This decision of the Chhattisgarh government will greatly help in ensuring the supply of coal to 4,340 MW capacity thermal power projects in the state. *—PTI*

COW VIGILANTE BAJRANGI CLAIMS THREAT TO LIFE

FARIDABAD, 12 JULY

Cow vigilante Bittu Bajrangi has filed a police complaint claiming he is getting threat calls before the proposed 22 July Braj Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra in Haryana's Nuh, an event that was marred by violence last year after a mob tried to stop it.

Five people, including two home guards, were killed and many injured in the violence that erupted on 31 July last year in Nuh and spread to other areas of the state. In Gurugram, a naib imam was killed at a mosque amid a series of incidents of arson.

Police said an FIR was registered at the Saran police station in Haryana's Faridabad on Wednesday based on the complaint from Bajrangi. In his complaint, Bajrangi said he got a call on 6 July on his mobile-phone from a man and he asked him to stay away from Nuh or be killed. *— PTI*

AMMO VENDING MACHINE IN US

Adults in some US states can now buy guns and bullets out of AI-powered vending machines right at their local grocery stores. Buyers have to be at least 21 years old and the machine will verify the IDs by using facial recognition technology. It does not take cash and only accepts credit cards. The machine weighs 2,000 pounds, and the ammo is kept behind layers of locked steel. American Rounds LLC, the company that makes them argues it's a safer way to sell ammo than online or off the shelf. ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

India's population to peak in early 2060s to 1.7B: UN

India's population is projected to peak in the early 2060s at about 1.7 billion and then decline by 12 per cent, but the country will remain the world's most populous throughout the century, the United Nations has said.

The World Population Prospects 2024 report, released here on Thursday, said that the world's population is expected to continue growing over the coming 50-60 years, reaching a peak of around 10.3 billion people in the mid-2080s, up from 8.2 billion in 2024. After peaking, the global population is projected to start declining gradually, falling to 10.2 billion people by the end of the century.

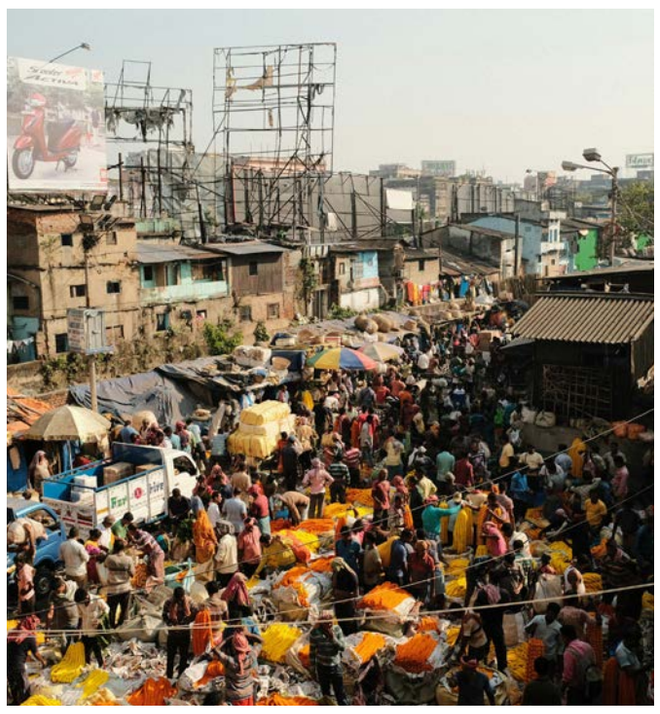
India, which surpassed China as the world's most populous nation last year, will continue to hold that position through 2100.

"The population of India, which is expected to remain the world's largest throughout the century, will likely decline by 12 per cent after reaching its peak in the early 2060s at about 1.7 billion," the UN report published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Population Division said.

According to the report, India's population in 2024 is projected at 1.45 billion and this will peak to 1.69 billion in 2054. After this, India's population is projected to decline to 1.5 billion by the end of the century in 2100, but the country will still remain the most populous nation on Earth.

Responding to a question by PTI on population projections for India, Senior Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, UN DESA Clare Menozzi said at a press conference that "India is currently the largest country in the world in terms of population, and it is projected to stay so throughout the century. The population is currently estimated at 1.45 billion, and it's supposed to increase further" to 1.69 billion.

"It's supposed to peak around the 2060s in size and then it starts to slightly decline. So by the end of the century, India is projected to be around 1.5 billion, but still the largest country in the world by a large margin."



India's population in 2024 is projected at 1.45 billion ***PHOTO: UNSPLASH***

The report said that China's population, currently 1.41 billion in 2024, will fall to 1.21 billion in 2054 and further decline to 633 million by 2100.

"It is anticipated that China, the country currently with the world's second-largest population, will likely experience the largest absolute population loss between 2024 and 2054 (204 million)," followed by Japan (21 million) and Russia (10 million). "Longer-range population projections are more uncertain" for China, it said.

"However, due to its large size and sustained low level of fertility, China is also likely to record the largest population decline of any country through the end of the century (786 million people).

By 2100, China is projected to have lost more than a half of its current population and to have returned to a population size comparable to that recorded in the late 1950s (50 per cent probability)."

Responding to a question on the significantly low population projection for China, Director of the Population Division at UN DESA John Wilmoth said that "it really relates to the level of fertility that's observed currently in China. The current number is right around one birth per woman on average over a lifetime."

"Given that you need 2.1 births to maintain the current population without migration, if fertility levels remain at such a low level, even if they come up slightly, any fertility level if it's below two, or especially below 1.8 or below 1.5, you're really getting into low levels of fertility and it produces a long run decline that's quite significant.

And that's true for China. It's true for some other countries in this analysis," Wilmoth said.

Currently, nearly one-fifth of all countries and areas, including China, Italy, the Republic of Korea and Spain, are experiencing what is sometimes referred to as "ultra-low" fertility, with fewer than 1.4 live births per woman over a lifetime.

The report added that the global fertility rate currently stands at 2.25 live births per woman, down from 3.31 births in 1990.

Currently, the US is the third largest country in the world with a population of 345 million and in 2054, it will be the fourth largest with 384 million people. Pakistan will remain the third largest country in the world, with a population of 511 million people in 2100.

In about 126 countries and areas, the population is likely to continue growing through 2054, potentially reaching a peak later in the century or beyond 2100. This group includes several of the world's most populous countries: India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan and the United States of America.

In 2023, the global number of deaths among children under age 5 fell below 5 million for the first time in recent history.

However, 95 per cent of such deaths took place in the 126 countries with populations that are still growing, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Since 2022, life expectancy has returned to levels observed before the emergence of the coronavirus disease in nearly all countries and areas. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020 and 2021, global life expectancy at birth fell to 70.9 years, down from 72.6 in 2019.

The report said that by 2080, persons aged 65 or older will outnumber children under 18. "By the late 2070s, the number of persons at ages 65 years and higher globally is projected to reach 2.2 billion, surpassing the number of children (under age 18).

By the mid-2030s, it is projected that there will be 265 million persons aged 80 years or older, more than the number of infants (1 year of age or less)," it said. *—PTI*

LETTERS

write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR

NATO summit 2024 was all about Ukraine & Biden

NATO leaders met this week to celebrate the alliance's 75th anniversary under the cloud of deep political uncertainty in its most powerful member — the United States.

But even as questions swirled about President Joe Biden's future and the implications of a possible return to the White House by NATO sceptic Donald Trump, the 32 allies put a brave face on their strength and unity going forward, particularly in relation to Ukraine.

Over three days in Washington, Ukraine, Russia, the threat posed by an increasingly aggressive China and NATO's future dominated the formal summit discussions, although all eyes were on Biden.

He hoped to use the summit as a symbol of his strength as leader of the free world as he struggles to salvage his reelection campaign. Biden is facing growing calls to withdraw after a poor debate performance against Trump last month. Here are key takeaways from the summit:

Biden gets some slack

Biden stunned the audience at a meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Council on Thursday by referring to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as Russian President Vladimir Putin before quickly correcting himself.

At his news conference later at the conclusion of the summit, he mistakenly called Vice President Kamala Harris Vice President Trump.

NATO leaders paid great deference to Biden by either ignoring or sidestepping questions about his comportment, appearance and grasp of the issues.

French President Emmanuel Macron and new British Prime Minister Keir Starmer were asked repeatedly about the gaffe but declined to answer directly.

Starmer, who made his debut on the international stage at the summit, ducked multiple questions about the gaffe, instead praising Biden for his leadership and his preparation in putting an event together to secure solid outcomes for Ukraine.

Trump looms over the summit

A potential Trump presidency has raised concerns in some European capitals. Trump has repeatedly questioned NATO's relevance, has suggested he might withdraw from the alliance or short of that has threatened not to defend allies who do not meet the 2 per cent defence spending commitments.

Biden said at his news conference that he's the "best qualified person" to ensure that the 32-member transatlantic alliance remains strong and that Ukraine does not fall to Putin.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said he's not concerned about the US commitment to the alliance if Trump is returned to the White House, because it has bipartisan support in Congress and a record number of allies are hitting their goals for military spending.

Trump was asked this week on Fox News Radio whether he wants the US to exit NATO. He answered, "No, I want them to pay their bills."

Zelenskyy, meanwhile, gave a speech to friendly Republicans, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, on the sidelines of the summit, saying he hopes the US never leaves NATO.

Ukraine brings in aid

Although they stopped short of offering Ukraine an invitation to join, the allies affirmed that Ukraine is on an "irreversible path" to NATO membership and pledged to maintain a baseline of roughly USD 43 billion in annual support to Kyiv as it defends itself from Russia's invasion and attempts to deter future aggression.

Zelenskyy embraced the support of allies who have provided substantial new military aid and a path to joining NATO, but he emphatically pushed for the help to arrive faster and for restrictions to be lifted on the use of US weapons to attack military targets inside Russia.

Harsh words for China

NATO leaders have been concerned about China and its increasing aggressiveness for some time. But in a first, they adopted significantly stronger language calling out Beijing for its support of Russia in its war against Ukraine.

China has opposed NATO's reach into the Indo-Pacific region, saying it hurts Beijing's interests and disrupts peace and stability in the region, said Lin Jian, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman.

The four Indo-Pacific countries attending the summit — Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia — issued a joint statement to "strongly condemn the illicit military cooperation" between Russia and North Korea, showing how the military alliance and its Pacific partners are forging closer ties to counter what they see as shared security threats.

—PTI

President Joe Biden & President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy speak at an event with NATO leaders announcing the Ukraine Compact on the sidelines of NATO Summit in Washington ***PHOTO: PTI***

Why both businesses & scammers love India's payment system

Every day, for the last seven years, Arun Kumar has set up his fruit stall on a busy Mumbai street.

It's not an easy way to make a living.

"Being a street vendor is a challenge. There's the fear of being robbed or, as I am not a licensed vendor, the local body can come and dismantle my store anytime," he says.

But over the past four years at least one aspect of his work has become easier.

"Prior to Covid everything was in cash. But now everyone pays with UPI. Scan the code and the payment is done within seconds.

"No issues of handling cash, giving change to customers. It has made my life and business smooth," he says.

UPI, or to give it its full name the Unified Payments Interface, was launched in 2016 in a collaboration between India's central bank and the nation's banking industry.

It's an app-based instant payment system, which allows users to send and receive money, pay bills and authorise payments in a single step - no need to enter bank details or any other personal information. And, perhaps most importantly, it's free.

It has become so popular that India is now the biggest real-time payments market.

In May, UPI recorded 14 billion transactions, up from nine billion the year before.

But the popularity and ease of use has made it a rich feeding ground for scammers.

"While digital payments are convenient, they do come with vulnerabilities," says Shashank Shekhar, founder of the Delhi-based Future Crime Research Foundation.

Shekhar says that scammers use a variety of ways to trick people, including persuading them to share their UPI pin number, which is needed to authorise payments.

Some scammers have also created fake UPI apps, that are clones of legitimate banking apps, and then steal login details or other valuable information.

"The pace at which digital transformation took place in the country means unfortunately digital literacy and safe internet practice could not catch up," says Shekhar.

He says that between January 2020 and June 2023 almost half of all financial fraud involved the use of the UPI system.

According to government figures there were more than 95,000 cases of fraud involving UPI in the financial year ending April 2023, up from 77,000 in the previous year.

Instant payments have made Mumbai vendor Arun Kumar's transactions much smoother ***PHOTO: BBC NEWS***

Shivkali was one such victim. She had always wanted to own a scooter, but they were beyond her budget.

However, earlier in the year the 22-year-old, who lives in Bihar, spotted one for sale on Facebook that looked like a great deal.

"I grabbed the opportunity without thinking," she says.

A couple of clicks later and she was talking to the owner, who said that for $23 he would send over the vehicle papers.

That went smoothly, so Shivkali continued to send the owner money, via instant transfers. She eventually ended up paying $200, but the scooter (also commonly called a Scooty in India), was never delivered.

Shivkali realised she had been scammed.

"I did not think I could be cheated, as I have some education background and know what is happing in the world. But scammers are smart. They have an art of speaking to convince the opposite person," she says.

The government and the central bank are looking at ways to protect UPI users from scammers.

But at the moment, if a victim wants compensation, they have to approach their bank.

"The problem is deep rooted," says Durgesh Pandey, an expert in financial crime.

"Most of the onus lies with banks and telecom companies. They are lax in making identity checks, that's why the fraudster can't be traced.

"But the challenge for banks particularly is that they have to balance between inclusivity, ease of business and enforcement of identity checks. If they are too rigid, the vulnerable section of society will remain without banking facilities."

- UPI, or to give it its full name the Unified Payments Interface, was launched in 2016 in a collaboration between India's central bank and the nation's banking industry

But Pandey argues that in most cases of fraud, the bank is not totally to blame.

"It's a complex question because the problem lies with banks, but it's the victim who is giving his credentials in most case. I would say both victim and bank should bear the loss."

Despite those problems, UPI is being promoted in rural areas where access to banking services can be difficult.

Poonam Untwal from Rajasthan runs a guidance centre which helps people use the internet and digital banking.

"Most of us are not that educated, nor know the proper use of smartphones. I teach them that phones are no longer a device just to talk to people but banks at their fingertips," she says.

She believes that UPI will help develop the local economy.

"Many women like me have a small business that we run from our home. Now we can receive and send money with UPI. People who don't have smart phones come to my centre to get their transactions done," she says.

As well as making inroads into rural areas, UPI is spreading overseas.

Retailers in Bhutan, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka and UAE will take UPI payments.

And this year, France become the first European country to accept UPI payments, starting with tickets to the Eiffel Tower.

Back in Mumbai, Kumar is happy that he no longer has to use cash, but remains wary.

If he can't get a good internet connection then customers can, by accident or design, make off without paying.

"For a small vendor like me it [UPI] made receiving money very easy. But I am always scared of fraud. I keep hearing in the news how the UPI frauds are increasing. Hopefully some mechanisms are invented so a small vendor like me doesn't face losses."

—BBC News

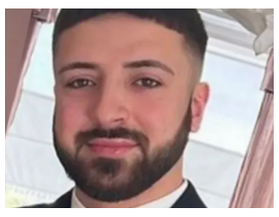


PHOTO: BBC

British man arrested in crossbow murders

LONDON, 12 JULY

British police have arrested a 26-year-old man on suspicion of killing two sisters and their mother in a crossbow attack. In a statement on Friday, Hertfordshire Police said that the suspect remains in a serious condition in hospital. Police previously said that Kyle Clifford was captured on Wednesday following a near day-long manhunt in a cemetery near his home in Enfield, around 24km from the scene of the crimes. The three women — the family of a well-known BBC commentator —- were found with serious injuries at their home in the quiet residential neighbourhood of Bushey, northeast of the capital, on Tuesday evening. Police and ambulance crews tried to save Carol Hunt, 61, and her daughters Hannah, 28, and Louise, 25, but they were pronounced dead at the scene. Officers who found Clifford took him away on a stretcher from Lavender Hill Cemetery with undisclosed injuries. Police said no shots had been fired. *—AP*

Australian couple arrested for spying for Russia

MELBOURNE, 12 JULY

An Australian army private and her husband accused of spying for Russia were denied bail on the first charges against suspected operatives under Australia's sweeping espionage laws enacted in 2018. Kira Korolev, 40, and her husband Igor Korolev, 62, are Russian-born Australian citizens and hold Russian passports. They did not appear in person and were represented by lawyers in the Brisbane Magistrates Court on a charge each of preparing for an espionage offense. The couple will appear next in a federal court on 20 September. Australian Federal Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw had earlier said the couple allegedly "worked to access Australian Defense Force material that related to Australia's national security interests."*—AP*

UAE names street after doctor with Indian roots

DUBAI, 12 JULY

A road in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi has been named after an 84 year old doctor with Indian roots as a tribute to his significant contributions to the country's health sector. The Department of Municipalities and Transport has named a road in Abu Dhabi after Dr George Matthew to recognise his contributions as part of its "Honouring UAE's Visionaries: Commemorative Streets" project, which aims to honour individuals who have greatly contributed to the nation's development. The road near Sheikh Shakbooth Medical City in Al Mafraq will now be known as George Matthew Street. *—PTI*

Aircraft skids off runway in Nepal; none injured

KATHMANDU, 12 JULY

An aircraft of Nepal's private carrier Buddha Air with 59 people onboard skidded off the runway while landing in Lumbini province, on Thursday night according to a media report on Friday. It got stuck in the mud at Gautam Buddha Airport in Siddharthanagar . However, there was no reports of any injury to the passengers. All 59 onboard, including 4 crew members, were evacuated safely from the plane. The airport is closed now as the plane is on the runway, the police said. Buddha Air is a private airline based in Lalitpur. It operates domestic flights within Nepal as well as international services to India, mainly Varanasi. *—PTI*

Possible French PM candidates

Following the France election, Macron seeks a broad coalition, excluding Far-Right and Far-Left. New Popular Front (NFP), leading with 188 seats, claims premiership rights but debates continue.

OLIVIER FAURE (55)

Party: NFP
Leader of the Socialist Party.
He was a key player in NFP alliance just before the snap election.

MARINE TONDELIER (37)

Party: NFP
A key player in NFP, acting as a bridge between Faure and Far-Left.
She has stood out with her speeches against the Far-Right.

GÉRALD DARMANIN (41)

Party: Ensemble
Minister since 2017, handled interior portfolio.
He is one of the main Right-Wing figures in President Macron's camp.

FRANÇOIS BAYROU (73)

Party: Ensemble
Leader of the Modem party within Macron's Ensemble.
He said it would be a mistake to create a govt that "served only one half of the country".

XAVIER BERTRAND (59)

Party: Les Républicains
Former minister under Jacques Chirac and Nicholas Sarkozy.
Temporarily left LR in 2017 due to conservative party leadership, returned in 2022.

Research: Reha Fathima

Nepal PM Dahal ousted after failing floor test

He received 63 votes in his favour out of required 138 votes

KATHMANDU, 12 JULY

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' was ousted from his position on Friday after failing to secure a vote of confidence during a floor test in the House of Representatives, Kathmandu Post reported.

Dahal, who had been in office for over one year and six months, required 138 votes to pass the trust motion but received only 63 votes in his favour. Out of the 275-member House of Representatives, 194 lawmakers voted against him, while one member abstained. A total of 258 lawmakers were present during the meeting.

Dahal called for the floor test in accordance with Article 100(2) of the constitution after the CPN-UML withdrew its support from the government. This decision came following a deal between the CPN-UML and the Nepali Congress to form a new coalition, reducing Dahal's government to a minority.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' *PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA*

- Dahal emphasised the significance of the constitution, which was built on the foundations of a decade-long revolt and subsequent movements by oppressed classes

Dahal emphasised the significance of the constitution, which was built on the foundations of a decade-long revolt and subsequent movements by oppressed classes, regions, genders and communities. He stressed that the Constitution has been protected by the support of the people "This constitution, made on the foundation of a decade-long revolt and the subsequent movements of the oppressed classes, regions, genders and communities, has been protected with the support of the people from the streets, and it will be defended in the same manner in the coming days as well," he declared.

This floor test marked the fifth for Dahal since his appointment on 25 December, 2022. His first floor test was on 10 January, 2023, where he received 268 votes. He faced his second-floor test three months later after breaking ties with the CPN-UML and forming an alliance with the Nepali Congress, securing 172 votes. The third-floor test occurred when Congress withdrew its support following Dahal's renewed alliance with the CPN-UML and other parties on March 4, in which he received 157 votes. Dahal faced his fourth floor test after a split in the Janata Samajbadi Party, Nepal, in May, and secured 157 votes again. *—ANI*

RESCUE MISSION ON

Nepali Army troops and others during a rescue operation after buses were swept away by a landslide, in Chitwan district, Nepal *PHOTO: PTI*

65, including 7 Indians, missing after Nepal landslide

KATHMANDU, 12 JULY

At least seven Indian nationals are among over 60 passengers who are believed to be missing after two buses were swept away by a landslide and pushed into a swollen river in Nepal early Friday, officials said.

The missing Indian nationals are Santosh Thakur, Surendra Sah, Adit Miyaan, Sunil, Shahnawaj Alam, and Ansari. Another person has not been identified.

The two buses carrying 65 passengers went missing in the Trishuli River in the landslides at Simaltal area along the Narayanghat-Mugling road in Chitwan district, my Republica news portal reported quoting officials.

Chief District Officer of Chitwan, Indradev Yadav, confirmed the incident.

According to Yadav, the Kathmandu-bound Angel bus and Ganpati Deluxe, en route to Gaur from the Capital, met with the accident at around 3.30am.

Twenty-four people were on board the bus travelling to Kathmandu and 41 on the bus travelling to Gaur, police said.

Three of the passengers on the Ganpati Deluxe bus managed to escape after jumping out of the vehicle, The Kathmandu Post reported.

Details have been received of 21 passengers travelling from Birgunj to Kathmandu on Angel Deluxe. According to the latest information, police have said that there were seven Indian nationals among the passengers on the bus.

Yadav said that the rescue workers have started clearing the landslide debris. Expressing grief over the disappearance of the two buses in the Trishuli River, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has issued directives for immediate search and rescue operations. He expressed grief over the loss of life and property due to floods and landslides in different parts of the country. *—PTI*

US, South Korea sign joint nuclear deterrence guidelines

SEOUL, 12 JULY

The US and South Korea signed joint nuclear deterrence guidelines, weeks after North Korea and Russia struck a defence pact that deepened concerns in the region about the North's growing nuclear threats.

Meeting Thursday on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Washington, President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol commended what they called "the tremendous progress" that their countries' alliance have made a year after creating a joint Nuclear Consultative Group.

Last year, the US and South Korea launched the bilateral consultation body to enhance information-sharing on nuclear and strategic operations. The US will retain the control of its nuclear weapons, and the body's establishment was meant to ease South Korean worries about North Korean nuclear threats.

The two leaders authorised "the US-ROK Guidelines for Nuclear Deterrence and Nuclear Operations on the Korean Peninsula" that was signed by their defence officials earlier Thursday, according to South Korea's presidential office. ROK stands for the Republic of Korea, South Korea's official name.

"The Presidents underscored that the Guidelines document provides a solid foundation for enhancing US-ROK extended deterrence cooperation in an integrated manner," the joint statement said.

The first such guidelines agreed between the two countries, they're part of an effort to flesh out a US commitment to defend the South. Washington has long promised to use all its capabilities, including nuclear weapons, to defend Seoul if it is attacked. *—AP*

4 migrants die while crossing English Channel

PARIS, 12 JULY

Four migrants have died while trying to cross the English Channel on an inflatable boat from France to the UK, French authorities said on Friday.

The migrants' vessel capsized and punctured off the coast of Boulogne-sur-Mer, in northern France, the prefecture responsible for the region said in a statement. Sixty-three people were rescued by the French coast guard.

The prefecture said a French navy patrol boat spotted the overcrowded vessel on early Friday as it deflated off the French coast. *—AP*

Biden calls Zelenskyy 'Putin'; Harris 'VP Trump'

WASHINGTON, DC, 12 JULY

US President Joe Biden who is under intense scrutiny over his advanced age on Thursday introduced Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy as Russian President Vladimir Putin at a NATO event and later at a solo press conference in Washington mixes up the name of his vice president, Kamala Harris with the Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

"And now I want to hand it over to the President of Ukraine, who has as much courage as he has determination, ladies and gentlemen, President Putin," Biden,81, said at the NATO summit in Washington on 10 July, drawing gasps from those in the room.

PHOTO: PTI

After a two second pause, he immediately corrected himself and said, "Going to beat President Putin, President Zelensky. I am so focused on beating Putin." Zelensky responded to Biden's comments with "I am better (than Putin)," to which Biden replied "You are a hell of a lot better," as some room laughed, before Zelensky began his own address. *—ANI/PTI*

INDIAN MAN HELD IN CANADA FOR GROPPING

NOVA SCOTIA, 12 JULY

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has arrested a 25-year-old Indian man from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in Canada for allegedly groping at least twelve individuals under the age of sixteen. The incident occurred at a waterpark in Moncton City, on 7 July.

According to a police, officers were dispatched to the waterpark after receiving reports of the man's actions. He was apprehended while still inside the waterpark.

While the accused has been released from custody, he is scheduled to appear in front of the Moncton Provincial Court on 24 October. *—PTI*

ON RUSSIAN TIES

China hits back at accusations by NATO

BEIJING, 12 JULY

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has hit back at NATO's "groundless accusations" that Beijing is helping Russia in its war on Ukraine.

He has also warned the Western alliance against stirring up confrontation.

Wang's comments, made in a call with his Dutch counterpart, came hours after leaders of NATO member states gathered in Washington DC and issued a declaration that mentioned the war.

They accused China of being a "decisive enabler" of Russia through its "large-scale support for Russia's defence industrial base", in some of their harshest remarks yet about Beijing.

They called on China to stop "all material and political support" to Russia's war effort such as the supply of dual-use materials, which are items that can be used for both civilian and military purposes.

Wang Yi *PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA*

Western states have previously accused Beijing of transferring drone and missile technology and satellite imagery to Moscow. The US estimates about 70 per cent of the machine tools and 90 per cent of the microelectronics Russia imports now come from China.

Beijing was also accused of conducting "malicious cyber and hybrid activities, including disinformation" on NATO states.

In a press conference on Thursday, US President Joe Biden said that he had discussions with other leaders about spelling out the consequences for China.

"China has to understand that if they are supplying Russia with information and capacity, working with North Korea and others to help Russia and [their] armament, that they're not going to benefit economically as a consequence of that," he said. *—AP*

ALL SET FOR SAIL

Titanic mission to map photo record of wreck

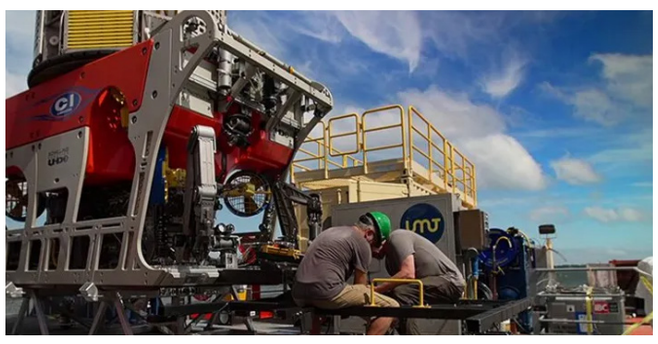
NEW YORK, 12 JULY

A team of imaging experts, scientists and historians will set sail for the Titanic on Friday to gather the most detailed photographic record ever made of the wreck.

The BBC has had exclusive access to expedition members here in the US city of Providence, Rhode Island, as they make preparations to leave port.

They will be using state of the art technology to scan every nook and cranny of the famous liner to gain new insights into its sinking.

This will be the first commercial mission to Titanic since last year's OceanGate tragedy. Five men died while trying to visit the lost ship in a novel submersible.



Two robotic vehicles will dive to the ocean bottom to capture millions of high-resolution photographs *PHOTO: BBC*

A joint memorial service will be held at sea in the coming days for them and the 1,500 passengers and crew who went down with Titanic in 1912.

The new expedition is being mounted by the US company that has sole salvage rights and which to date has brought up some 5,500 objects from the wreck.

Two robotic vehicles will dive to the ocean bottom to capture millions of high-resolution photographs and to make a 3D model of all the debris.

"We want to see the wreck with a clarity and precision that's never before been achieved," explained co-expedition lead David Gallo.

One of the five who died on the OceanGate sub was Frenchman Paul-Henri ("PH") Nargeolet. He was the director of research at RMS Titanic Inc and was due to lead this expedition.

But although the wreck site has been the target of repeated study since its discovery in 1985, there still isn't what could be described as a definitive map.

There are extensive areas of the surrounding debris field that have received only cursory inspection. *—BBC News*

Japan takes action against 200 officials for misconduct

TOKYO, 12 JULY

Minoru Kihara *PHOTO: PTI*

Japan's defence ministry announced disciplinary action on Friday against more than 200 senior officials and service members over mishandling of classified materials and other misconduct, an embarrassment that could undermine Tokyo's efforts to work more closely with United States and other partners.

Defence Minister Minoru Kihara apologised, saying the problems "significantly damaging to the public trust" for the ministry and Japan's defence forces. "I'm keenly aware of my responsibility."

Kihara said the ministry's investigation found that classified information was mishandled on 38 destroyers and submarines, but said no sensitive information leaked outside of military or caused any harm. People without appropriate clearances were routinely assigned to duties that involved sensitive information. Earlier this year, Japan passed a new security law that tightened rules on handling sensitive information. Japan also plans to enact legislation to bolster its cyber security defenses.

11 senior officials were dismissed, two were demoted, dozens suspended and 14 received pay cuts, while about half of them were warned. *—AP*

Gold rises ₹250; silver slides ₹200 amid global cues

MUMBAI, 12 JULY

Gold price stayed firm for the third straight session and rose Rs 250 to Rs 75,350 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to All India Sarafa Association. The yellow metal had ended Rs 50 higher at Rs 75,100 per 10 grams in the previous session, a day after gaining Rs 400 on Wednesday. Traders attributed the appreciation to sustained buying by local jewellers amid easing global prices. The prices of silver, however, declined by Rs 200 to Rs 94,300 per kg. It had settled at Rs 94,500 on Thursday. In sarafa markets, extending the gains for the third straight session, the precious metal was trading at Rs 75,350 per 10 grams, up by Rs 250 against the previous close, the association said. In the global markets, spot gold was trading at USD 2,401.89 per ounce, down by USD 13.59 a ounce. According to market experts, the precious metal retreated in overseas markets on Friday. *—PTI*

Rupee settles 1P higher at 83.52 against US dollar

MUMBAI, 6 JUNE

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day higher by 1 paisa at 83.52 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, as the support from firm domestic equities was negated by elevated crude oil prices. Forex traders said the rupee inched higher as domestic equities touched fresh all-time highs and a weak tone in the US dollar supported the local unit. It opened at 83.53, and touched an intraday high of 83.49 and a low of 83.55 against the American currency during the session. It finally settled at 83.52 (provisional) against the dollar, 1 paisa higher than its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee settled 2 paise lower at 83.53 against the US dollar. Odds of a september rate cut rose to around 90 per cent post inflation. *—PTI*

India & Qatar hold meeting to boost bilateral trade

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

The delegates of India and Qatar held a Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting in Doha on various topics related to trade, highlighted the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on Friday. Indian delegation consisted of officers from the Department of Commerce and other Ministries. During the meeting, both sides also reviewed the progress of ongoing discussions for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Food Safety and Cooperation in exchange of pre-arrival information for the facilitation of trade and customs control on goods and agreed to conclude them expeditiously. Both sides agreed to expeditiously address all issues impeding bilateral trade and facilitate trade promotion between the two countries. According to the ministry data, the bilateral trade between India and Qatar stood at USD 14.08 billion in 2023-24. India is the second largest trading partner to Qatar. Both sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the JWG in 2025, in New Delhi. *—ANI*

Magicpin onboards over 1,000 big brands in a year

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Hyperlocal e-commerce firm magicpin has onboarded over 1,000 mutli-city and multinational consumer brands in a year, registering a year-on-year growth in onboarding prominent firms, the company said on Friday. While it took magicpin four years to bring around 2,000 brands on board, it added over 1,000 of them over the past year alone. The new brands magicpin onboarded include Burger King, Domino's, TacoBell, McDonald's, Faasos, Subway, Behrouz Biryani, Meghna Biryani, Truffles, Chaayos, US Polo Assn, Louis Philippe, Puma, Levi's, Van Heusen, Lee Cooper, etc. Lightspeed Venture Capital firm backed magicpin is the biggest seller on government e-commerce platform ONDC. *—PTI*

Market rallies 1% to scale fresh highs

Sensex settles at new high of 80,519.34

MUMBAI, 12 JULY

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty soared nearly 1 per cent to hit new lifetime highs on Friday, fuelled by intense buying in IT and tech stocks after robust TCS earnings.

A rally in Reliance Industries and Infosys also boosted investor sentiments, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 622 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 80,519.34. During the day, it zoomed 996.17 points or 1.24 per cent to hit an all-time high of 80,893.51.

The NSE Nifty surged 186.20 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 24,502.15. Intra-day, it jumped 276.25 points or 1.13 per cent to hit a new lifetime peak of 24,592.20.

Among the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services climbed nearly 7 per cent after the country's largest IT services player reported 8.7 per cent growth for the June quarter net profit at Rs 12,040 crore.

Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance and Larsen & Toubro were the other major gainers.

Infosys, HCL, Axis & Reliance were among major gainers *PHOTO: PTI*

- NSE Nifty surged 186.20 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 24,502.15. Intra-day, it jumped 276.25 points or 1.13 per cent to hit a new lifetime peak of 24,592.20

Maruti, Asian Paints, Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel and ICICI Bank were among the laggards.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.78 per cent to USD 86.13 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,137.01 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark closed lower by 27.43 points or 0.03 per cent at 79,897.34 on Thursday. The NSE Nifty edged down 8.50 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 24,315.95. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X / @TCS

TCS SHARES CLIMB OVER 3%, VALUATION JUMPS ₹40K CR

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Shares of TCS on Friday climbed over 3 per cent after the country's largest IT services player reported 8.7 per cent growth in the June quarter net profit at Rs 12,040 crore.

The stock went up by 3.10 per cent to Rs 4,044.35 on BSE.

At the NSE, it rallied 3 per cent to Rs 4,044.90.

The company's market valuation jumped Rs 40,359.77 crore to Rs 14,59,626.96 crore in morning deals.

The stock emerged as the biggest gainer among the Sensex pack.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Thursday posted an 8.7 per cent year-on-year rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs 12,040 crore for the first quarter ended June 2024.

Net profit for the year-ago period stood at Rs 11,074 crore.

The company - which competes in the IT services market with the likes of Infosys, Wipro and HCLTech - reported 5.4 per cent increase in revenue at Rs 62,613 crore. *—PTI*

BUDGET 2024

Govt to amend laws to push banking sectors

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

The government is likely to introduce amendments to Banking Regulation Act 1949 and other laws to push banking sector reforms during the upcoming Budget session.

Apart from this, amendments in the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 are needed for privatisation of public sector banks.

These Acts led to the nationalisation of banks in two phases and provisions of these laws have to be changed for the privatisation of banks.

Amendments, if approved by Parliament, would help bring down government holding in state-owned banks below 51 per cent, improve bank governance and enhance investors' protection, sources said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Budget for 2021-22, announced the privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs).

To ensure privatisation of a general insurance company, the government has already received approval from Parliament for the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021, in the monsoon session ended in August 2021.

PHOTO: ANI

- The government in April 2020 consolidated 10 PSBs into four and as a result, total number of PSBs came down to 12 from 27 in March 2017

The government in April 2020 consolidated 10 PSBs into four and as a result, total number of PSBs came down to 12 from 27 in March 2017.

—PTI

Tata Power invests ₹4,200 cr in Odisha's network expansion

BHUBANESWAR, 12 JULY

Tata Power-led power distribution companies (Discoms) have invested Rs 4,245 crore in infrastructure expansion and network upgrade in Odisha over the past 3-4 years, the company said on Friday.

The company operates four Discoms in joint ventures with the government of Odisha - TP Central Odisha Distribution (TPCODL), TP Western Odisha Distribution (TPWODL), TP Southern Odisha Distribution (TPSODL), and TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), collectively serving a customer base of over 9 million.

Of the total investment, Rs 1,232 crore has been allocated through various government-backed schemes. This includes laying 2,177 circuit kilometres (Ckms) of 33 kilovolt (KV) lines and 19,809 Ckms of 11 KV lines, as well as adding 30,230 distribution transformers to improve the distribution network's reliability across rural and urban areas, the company said.

PHOTO: PTI

Furthermore, the network improvements have contributed to a reduction in Aggregate Transmission and Distribution (AT&C) losses, averaging 17.79 per cent in Odisha during the financial year 2023-24, the company added. *—PTI*

RBI GIVES NOD

Jio Financials to become Core Investment Company

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Jio Financial Services has received the nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert into a Core Investment Company (CIC) from a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC). According to the Reserve Bank of India, a CIC is a specialised NBFC with a minimum asset size of Rs 100 crore. The RBI's circular dated 20 December, 2016 stated that, a CIC's main business is the acquisition of shares and securities with certain conditions.

One of the conditions stipulated by the central bank is that the CIC holds not less than 90 per cent of its net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies. The transition from an NBFC to a CIC involves several key changes in the company's operational framework. As a Core Investment Company, Jio Financial Services will primarily focus on investments in and the management of its subsidiaries companies. The transformation to a CIC structure would enable Jio Financial Services to delineate the financials and operations of each subsidiary, to provide better value discovery for investors. *—ANI*

Jio Financial Services will primarily focus on investment *PHOTO: ANI*

ADANI WILMAR TO GET 67% STAKE IN OMKAR CHEMICALS

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Edible oil major Adani Wilmar Ltd will acquire a 67 per cent stake in Omkar Chemicals Industries at an enterprise value of Rs 56 crore.

Adani Wilmar, a joint venture between Adani Group and Singapore's Wilmar Group, is one of the largest consumer food FMCG companies in India. The company has a diversified product portfolio offering most of the primary kitchen essentials, including edible oil, wheat flour, rice, pulses, chickpea flour (besan) and sugar. In a regulatory filing on Thursday, Adani Wilmar said it has signed the share subscription and share purchase agreement to take a majority stake of 67 per cent in Omkar Chemicals Industries Pvt Ltd. *—PTI*

EU: X's blue checks are short of transparency, deceptive

LONDON, 12 JULY

European Union says blue checkmarks from Elon Musk's X are deceptive and that the online platform falls short on transparency and accountability requirements in the first charges against a tech company since the bloc's new social media regulations took effect.

European Commission outlined on Friday the preliminary findings from its investigation into X, formerly known as Twitter, under the 27-nation bloc's Digital Services Act. The rulebook, also known as the DSA, is a sweeping set of regulations that requires platforms to take more responsibility for protecting users and cleaning up their sites.

Regulators took aim at X's blue checks, saying they constitute "dark patterns" that are not in line with industry best practice and can be used by malicious actors to deceive users. After Musk bought the site in 2022, it started issuing the verification marks to anyone who paid USD 8 per month for one.

PHOTO: X / @ELONMUSK

Before Musk's acquisition, they mirrored verification badges common on social media and were largely reserved for celebrities, politicians and other influential accounts. *—PTI*

Govt launches 321 fisheries projects worth ₹114 cr in TN

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh virtually inaugurated 321 projects at the Fisheries Summer Meet held in Madurai, Tamil Nadu on Friday.

These initiatives, approved under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), represent a total investment of Rs 114 crore, an official statement said.

The projects covering 19 states and Union Territories include fish retail kiosks, shrimp hatcheries, brood banks, ornamental fish units, biofloc units, fish feed mills, and fish value-added enterprises.

While details of specific financial assistance were not disclosed, the scheme is expected to significantly bolster local businesses and enhance the country's fisheries output. The collaboration with ONDC has numerous benefits for the FFPOs. *—PTI*

Bookings are 5 times higher due to Olympics *PHOTO: X / @AIRBNB*

Airbnb bookings by Indians rise 30% amid Olympics

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Online accommodation hosting platform Airbnb on Friday said it has witnessed a 30 per cent rise in bookings from Indian guests for the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Beyond Paris, Indian travellers are also exploring other locations in France such as Nice, Aubervilliers, Colombes, and Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine, Airbnb said in a statement, citing data for bookings made by Indian guests between 1 January, 2023, and 31 March, 2024, for stays in and around the host cities during the period of the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

These areas, including key Olympic venues like Colombes (field hockey) and Chateauroux (shooting events), along with cities hosting football matches like Saint-Etienne, Lyon, Nantes, Nice, and Bordeaux, are experiencing significant interest, it added.

As of 31 March, 2024, nights booked during the dates of the Olympics are over five times higher than they were in the Paris region the same time a year ago, it added.

India alone witnessed an approximately 30 per cent increase in booking of stays in and around Paris during the games, Airbnb said. *—PTI*

FADA SEEKS VEHICLE DECLINE BENEFITS FOR TAX PAYERS

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Automotive dealers body FADA on Friday urged the government to introduce vehicle depreciation benefits for individual taxpayers, saying it will not only expand the taxpayer base but also ignite automobile demand.

In its pre-budget wishlist, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) also asked the finance ministry to reduce corporate tax for LLPs, proprietary, and partnership firms.

Allowing individuals to account for depreciation will not only increase the number of income tax filers but also ignite automobile demand, he reasoned.

FADA strongly appeals to the government to consider these two key measures in the upcoming budget to stimulate the automotive industry and broader economy, Singhania said. *—PTI*

AHEAD OF BUDGET

US-India Tax Forum seeks tax parity

WASHINGTON, 12 JUNE

Ahead of the Budget for 2024-25, the US-India Tax Forum has suggested the government to bring parity in tax payable by domestic and foreign players in multiple sectors.

This, dedicated Tax Policy Forum of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), has submitted to the government that it would ensure a level playing field in sectors like banking, where foreign banks' branches pay high taxes in India.

Acknowledging the global developments around the minimum tax deal, the Tax Forum has highlighted the inherent need to rationalise corporate tax rates.

The US-India Tax Forum has submitted its recommendations on tax amendments for the Union Budget 2024-25, to be presented by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, on 23 July.

The Tax Forum was officially launched in February, 2020 *PHOTO: ANI*

The US-India Tax Forum has around 350 member companies and is a leading platform that allows Indian policymakers, global tax experts, and the business community to engage and advocate for a tax environment that is conducive to making India an attractive investment destination.

- Acknowledging the global developments around the minimum tax deal, the Tax Forum has highlighted the inherent need to rationalise corporate tax rates

Largely in the interest of inbound investments, the Tax Forum has suggested significant reforms in the capital gains tax structure, which it said is currently complex.

As India seeks to capitalise on the China plus one strategy, it is imperative that the import of critical supply chain components is made cost-effective and the process of bringing goods into the country is streamlined. *—PTI*

India to clock GDP growth of 7% in FY25: NITI Aayog

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

The Indian economy will grow around 7 per cent in the current fiscal year and is on track to maintain a similar growth rate for several years, NITI Aayog member Arvind Virmani said on Friday.

Virmani said there are new challenges facing the country and they will have to be dealt with.

"Indian economy will grow at 7 per cent plus minus point 0.5 per cent... I expect that we are on track to grow at 7 per cent for several years from today," he told PTI in an interview.

Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) pegged the FY25 gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate at 7.2 per cent.

PHOTO: ANI

Responding to a question on the decline in private consumption expenditures in the last fiscal year, Virmani said it is actually recovering now.

On the decline in foreign direct investments (FDI) to India, despite it being the fastest growing economy, Virmani said riskless return of investment is much higher in the US and other developed countries than in emerging markets. *—PTI*

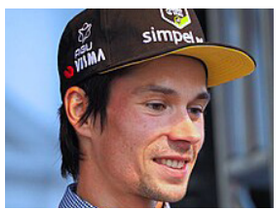


PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Primoz withdraws from Tour de France race

AGEN, 12 JULY

Primoz Roglic has withdrawn from the Tour de France ahead of the 13th stage a day after he got caught in a crash, his team said Friday. Roglic lost more than two minutes to his rivals on Thursday after hitting the tarmac 12 kilometers from the finish line when a rider ahead of him struck road furniture and lost control of his bike. It was the second accident in 24 hours for Roglic, a four-time Grand Tour champion. He got back on his bike but struggled at the back and was helped to the stage finish by his Bora-Hansgrohe teammates. He crossed 2 minutes, 27 seconds after the winner and dropped to sixth place overall. The decision has been taken that he will not start on Friday, to focus on upcoming goals," his team said in a statement. *—AP*

IOC, Saudi to team up on 12-year deal for video gaming

LAUSANNE, 12 JULY

Saudi Arabia and the IOC are teaming up for their first commercial deal together with the oil-rich kingdom set to host the first Esports Olympics next year. The gaming partnership will be for 12 years "with Olympic Esports Games held regularly," the International Olympic Committee said in a statement Friday. The first formal hosting or sponsorship deal between the IOC and Saudi Arabia is the latest addition to the kingdom's sprawling portfolio of sports events. Sports and entertainment events are a part of the Vision 2030 programme driven by Prince Mohammed bin Salman that aims to move the Saudi economy away from dependence on oil and to modernize its society. *—AP*

Arjun Atwal 57th at Kaulig Champs

AKRON, 12 JULY

Arjun Atwal was nicely headed to a solid even-par round with five holes to go before he bogeyed four of them in the first round of the Kaulig Companies Golf Championships at Firestone Akron. The four bogeys saw him drop to T-57 on the leaderboard. Atwal, who birdied the first and sixth, birdied back-to-back on the 11th and 12th as well to get to even par. However he bogeyed 14th, 15th, 17th and the 18th. Aiming to win the Kaulig Companies Championship for the third time in four years, Steve Stricker co-leads after opening with 4-under 66. Duffy Waldorf, seeking his first win since 2016, shares the first-round lead with Stricker. *—PTI*

Sable says he can win medal in Paris Olympics

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

India's top 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable does not want to be just a participant at the Olympics and believes he can a win a medal at the Paris Games beginning later this month. The 29-year-old Sable, who recently broke his own national record, will be competing in his second Olympics. He had failed to make it to the finals at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021."I am working hard with my eyes set on that goal, if everything falls into place I win a medal," Sable said when asked about the Paris Olympics. The legendary Indian athletes like Milkha Singh, Sriram Singh and PT Usha have inspired Sable to aim for an Olympic medal. He said his silver medal winning performance at the 2022 Commonwealth Games gave him the confidence that he can compete against the best. *—PTI*

Alcaraz beats Daniil and returns to Wimbledon final

He seeks his 4th Grand Slam title at age 21

LONDON, 12 JULY

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz beat Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (1), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 on Friday to return to the Wimbledon final as he seeks his fourth Grand Slam title at age 21.

After a so-so opening set, Alcaraz transformed back into the energetic, attacking, crowd-pleasing force who already was the first teenager to be No. 1 in the ATP rankings and is the youngest man to have won a major trophy on three surfaces: grass, clay and hard courts.

Now the Spaniard is one victory away from joining Boris Becker and Bjorn Borg as the only men in the Open era, which began in 1968, with multiple championships at the All England Club before turning 22.

He is 3-0 in major finals so far and will go up against 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic or Lorenzo Mussetti on Sunday. That duo was scheduled to meet in the second semifinal — the 49th appearance at that stage of a Grand Slam tournament for Djokovic, and the first for Musetti. A year ago at Wimbledon, Alcaraz eliminated 2021 US Open champion Medvedev in straight sets in the semifinals before defeating Djokovic in five sets in the final.

This time, the No. 3-seeded Alcaraz went through some ups and downs against No. 5 Medvedev, a 28-year-old from Russia who was trying to get to the seventh Slam title match of his career.

Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after defeating Daniil Medvedev of Russia in their semifinal match at the Wimbledon in London on Friday *PHOTO: PTI*

Women's final

Barbora Krejcikova had a bad back and just a handful of wins this season before Wimbledon.

So, yeah, she's pretty surprised to have reached the final at the All England Club on Saturday against No. 7 Jasmine Paolini, who is equally amazed to be one step away from the title.

Neither has played in a Wimbledon singles final before — Paolini was 0-3 at the grass-court major before this tournament started — and their meeting ensures there will be yet another new champion. Wimbledon has seen seven women win the past seven singles titles, dating to when Serena Williams won her seventh in 2016.

Both Krejcikova and Paolini dropped their first set in the semifinals before fighting back to reach the final. *—AP*

FINAL ON SUNDAY

Yamal's Spain to meet England in Euro 2024 final

Spain players celebrate after a semifinal match between Spain and France at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Munich *PHOTO: PTI*

BERLIN, 12 JULY

One is the best team in the tournament, on the brink potentially of a new era of success because of a teenage wonderkid, an outstanding midfield and a tweak in philosophy.

The other is a survivor, limping to the end with big moments, resilience and an oft-criticized coach who has another chance to end his country's long wait for a major men's title.The European Championship final between Spain and England on Sunday is dripping with narrative — with one arguably standing out above the rest.

Inside Olympiastadion, the historic venue in Berlin built by the Nazis for the 1936 Olympic Games, Lamine Yamal — a day after his 17th birthday — will look to crown his breakthrough as soccer's newest superstar by leading Spain to a first major men's trophy since the 2008-12 era, when it won back-to-back Euros either side of the World Cup in 2010. Yamal has been the shining light in a tournament where many of the high-profile figures — Cristiano Ronaldo, Kylian Mbappé, even England's Harry Kane — have underwhelmed. If his three assists before the semifinals hinted at his undoubted promise, Yamal's spectacular curling shot that propelled Spain to a 2-1 win over France in the last four signaled a new star had arrived.

While Yamal and fellow winger Nico Williams now offer their national team a hitherto-lacking directness out wide, it's the central midfield that has given Spain the edge. *—AP*

Yamal to break German law in finals

BERLIN, 12 JULY

Spain are set to break the law once again on Sunday when 16-year-old Lamine Yamal lines up against England in the final of Euro 2024. Yamal, has been the breakout start of this summer's European Championship in Germany and made headlines by scoring a spectacular goal against France. He produced a 25-yard rocket to draw Spain level in the first half after conceding early. Teammate Dani Olmo then put La Roja ahead via a deflected effort and Luis de la Fuente's men held on to book their ticket to Berlin.

—Courtesy, Mirror

Rodríguez in focus at Copa final

MIAMI, 12 JULY

Luis Díaz was unable to control his excitement — and tears — when talking about James Rodríguez, the key player in Colombia's journey to the Copa America final against Argentina on Sunday.

"From the moment I arrived at the national team, I let him know that he has always been my idol," Liverpool winger Díaz said. "I grew up watching him."

Such is the admiration that the midfielder, who turns 33 on Friday, attracts within the Colombian camp.

The 27-year-old Díaz was a teenager when James proved a sensation at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, where he won the Golden Boot as the tournament's top scorer and moved from Monaco to Real Madrid.

But for this Copa América, little was expected of James. He arrived in the United States after a poor season at Brazilian club Sao Paulo, where he ended up being an afterthought and appeared to be on his way out of there.

Colombia's aspirations of a second Copa title were placed on the shoulders of Díaz, along with Jefferson Lerma and Daniel Muñoz, another couple of players in England's top flight. *—AP*

Kitesurfing is a new sports where the athletes will compete at some of the fastest speeds of any Olympic sports in open sea *PHOTO: SCREENGRAB*

Sailors to look out for in Paris Games

PARIS, 12 JULY

A roadmap to follow for the sailing competition at the Paris Games:

Athletes to Watch—Marit Bouwmeester, Netherlands: She's returning for her fourth Games in the ILCA 6, formerly known as laser, after a bronze in Tokyo, gold in Rio de Janeiro and silver in London.

Martine Grael and Kahena Kunze, Brazil: They won gold medals at the last two Olympics in the women's skiff known as 49erFX. They face stiff competition from Dutch duo Odile van Aanholt and Annette Duetz, the current world champions, and Sweden's team of Vilma Bobeck and Rebecca Netzler, world champions in 2023.

Max Maeder, Singapore: At only 17, he's widely considered the man to beat in kitesurfing. Stu McNay, United States: The 42-year-old has competed in the past four Olympics and will race in Marseille in the mixed dinghy known as 470 together with Lara Dallman-Weiss. The reigning world champions in this new Olympic event are Spain's Jordi Xammar and Nora Brugman.

Daniela Moroz, United States: The San Francisco Bay area native has won six world championships in kitesurfing.

In Kitesurfing the athletes will compete at some of the fastest speeds of any Olympic sports in the open sea. *—AP*

SURGE IN TICKET SALES

The Paris Olympics has seen 8.6 million tickets sold – a record for any Games. "It's a record held by the 1996 Atlanta Games of 8.3 million tickets, and we've already passed that total now some time ago," the 2024 Games organiser Tony Estanguet said on Thursday.

India draw football match against Myanmar

YANGON, 12 JULY

Indian senior women's football team came up with a much improved display, holding hosts Myanmar to a 1-1 draw to break a string of losses in their second and last friendly match here on Friday.

The Blue Tigresses, who had suffered a 1-2 defeat in the opening match on Tuesday, dominated the first half in a rain-lashed kick-off but were kept in check by a solid Myanmar defence and a soggy penalty area.

India's Pyari Xaxa finally broke the stalemate in the 48th minute, scoring her scored goal in as many games. However, the home team's all-time top-scorer Win Theingi Tun scored the equaliser two minutes later. Both sides created several chances after that but neither could find the winning goal.

India head coach Chaoba Devi made one change in the side that had lost the opening friendly, replacing Sandhiya Ranganathan with Karishma Shirvoikar. Mousumi Murmu, 19, came in the second half to make her senior India debut.

India attacked in waves from the start and came close to taking the lead in the initial few minutes. Soumya Guguloth's neatly-struck ball over the top of the hosts' backline was collected by Myanmar goalkeeper Myo Mya Mya Nyein before an outstretched Anju Tamang could connect.

Minutes later, Anju's corner landed at Sangita Basfore's feet but the midfielder was unable get the ball out of the puddle just six yards from the goalmouth. *—PTI*

India showed resilience in T20 WC, says VVS

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

Batting great VVS Laxman hailed India's "resilience" while winning the recent T20 World Cup "from the jaws of defeat", and said the passionate celebration by players and former head coach Rahul Dravid exemplified the value of that triumph to them.

India won their first ICC trophy after 11 years and their second T20 title after 17 years when they beat South Africa by seven runs in the final in Barbados on 29 June.

"The kind of finish we had after we were under pressure with South Africa batters needing 30 runs off 30 balls. And from there to show character, resilience and self-belief to pull off the match from the jaws of defeat, it shows the character of the entire team," Laxman said in a video posted by the BCCI on its 'X' handle.

Laxman made a special mention of the expressive celebration of Dravid, who generally abhors public show of emotions.

"Someone like Rahul with whom I have played so much cricket, knew him for so many years, but for him to show that emotions, first when the last ball was bowled and then the various conversations he was having with the team members and when he lifted the trophy.

Laxman, who has 8781 runs from 134 Tests at an average of 45.97, lauded captain Rohit, star batter Virat Kohli and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja for their contributions in the T20 format. *—PTI*

JARMANPREET ALL SET FOR OLYMPICS DEBUT

NEW DELHI, 12 JULY

A frustrating doping ban jolted Jarmanpreet Singh's career in 2016, but he has long forgotten that bitter episode and the defender is all geared up for his Olympics debut in Paris later this month.

Jarmanpreet, a regular member of the Indian hockey team in the last few years, was picked in the 16-member Indian team for the Paris Games.

"It was not easy. It was one of my darkest phases, with many uncertainties," said Jarmanpreet on the doping ban from 2016 to 2018.

"Players don't usually emerge from a setback like this. To sit out of matches for two years is a big gap in the sport," he recalled.

Jarmanpreet was then a promising player on his way to playing for India at the Junior World Cup 2016 when he was slapped with the doping ban. She did not give up and served out the two-year period in exile before making a return. *—AP*

704 WICKETS AND OUT

Jimmy Anderson bows out of test cricket

LONDON, 12 JULY

It's 704 wickets and out for Jimmy Anderson.

The most prolific fast bowler in test history bowed out of international cricket by helping England complete a win by an innings and 114 runs over the West Indies at Lord's on Friday.

The 41-year-old Anderson's 188th and last test ended with him taking 3-32 in the West Indies' second innings as they were dismissed for 136 a little over an hour into the third day's play.

One of those wickets came on Friday, with Anderson enticing an edge behind off Joshua Da Silva with a delivery that seamed away. It was classic Anderson — unlike the caught-and-bowled chance he dropped off Gudakesh Motie with England needing just one more wicket for victory.

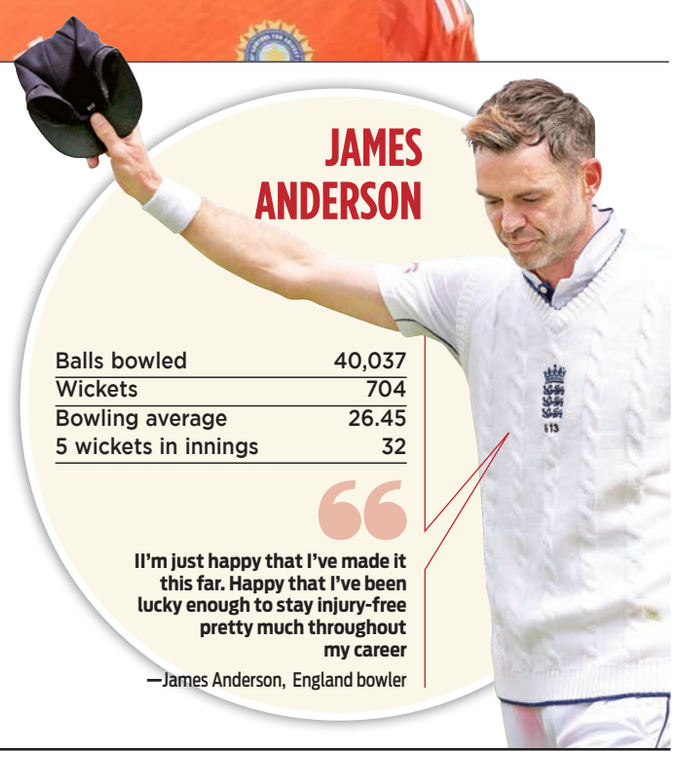
He fell to his knees and covered his face with his hand.

Soon, he was walking off the field at the home of cricket to a standing ovation after Gus Atkinson took the final wicket.

The morning had started with Anderson, who doesn't like being the center of attention, looking emotional after being given a guard of honor from both teams — and a first standing ovation from the crowd — when he came out at the start of the day's play.

Atkinson, took two of the wickets after the Windies resumed on 79-6 — still 171 runs adrift of making England batting again — and had match figures of 12-106. He became the first England bowler to get a 10-wicket haul in a test at home since Alec Bedser in 1946. *—AP*

England's James Anderson, celebrates bowling out West Indies' Kraigg Brathwaite with teammates in, London, on Thursday *PHOTO: PTI*


JAMES ANDERSON
Balls bowled 40,037
Wickets 704
Bowling average 26.45
5 wickets in innings 32
"I'm just happy that I've made it this far. Happy that I've been lucky enough to stay injury-free pretty much throughout my career
—James Anderson, England bowler